

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk April 13, 2014

Mid Edition No 603

DEATH »

A life less ordinary

How county was refuge for Peaches Geldof from glare of the spotlight

ENTERTAINMENT »

Who won Monopoly board game vote?

Find out where celebrated success this week

MUSIC »

Rebirth of Hop Farm Festival

We meet the music promoter behind its unlikely revival

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Tragedy of Peaches Geldof is a sobering reminder to us all

THE fragility of life is so often brought into focus when someone dies unexpectedly.

The passing this week of Peaches Geldof at just 25 was not only a reminder to us all that our time on Earth is limited but also another huge hurdle for her family to leap.

Having lived in Faversham for so many years now, the Geldof clan have long been considered 'one of us' and, as a consequence, the county felt their pain more than most.

The family, spearheaded by Live Aid hero Bob Geldof, grew up in Faversham and have frequently been spotted in and around the county. The fact that Peaches, having spent spells living in London and Los Angeles, should have chosen to return to the county to raise her own family, in the commuter-belt village of Wrotham, showed how closely the family still associated themselves with Kent.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

Inside this weekend's paper we take a look at the family's links and how they always sought refuge here from the glare of the spotlight.

It goes without saying that we send the Geldof family our condolences and best wishes at such a terrible time for them.

Elsewhere this week, we catch up with the man tasked with reviving the fortunes of the once-mighty – but never profitable – Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood.

It is very encouraging to see the event return with fresh promoters as it brings a whole host of big-name performers from across the world right into our backyard. And after so many years of our proximity to London meaning live acts rarely bothered, it has put Kent back on the map.

We'll be hoping it proves a big success.

All of which leaves me just to wish you a very good weekend.



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Hard shoulder of M25 to open for cars next month

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A STRETCH of the M25 motorway in Kent will see the hard shoulder converted into a regular lane of traffic before the end of next month.

After work found itself well ahead of schedule, the experimental move – designed to help ease congestion and improve traffic flows on the notoriously busy motorway – should now be ready in May rather than December.

What's more, not only will the lane become part of the motorway, but additional technology will be deployed on the stretch to help keep the road flowing.

There are just two parts of the London orbital which will see the changes.

One is between junctions five and seven which cross the Kent and Surrey borders. This links Sevenoaks and Godstone.

In addition, there is a stretch in Hertfordshire too.

However, use of the hard shoulder concerns many – anxious about the lack of space should they find themselves breaking down.

Major motoring organisations



EXPANSION: More space but many are concerned over safety aspects of using extra lane

the AA and RAC both expressed concerns when the plans were first unveiled last year.

However, the Highways Agency insists it will run well.

John Martin, senior project manager at the agency, said: "Around £1.7 billion is being invested into roads in the south east by 2021 with 145 new lane miles of capacity added.

"Most of the work to improve journeys on these stretches in Hertfordshire and Kent/Surrey is

complete and we are now testing the new technology.

"Soon the smart motorway will be complete and we are now asking drivers to get smart and find out more about how to use it, the types of signs and signals they will see and what to do in the event of a breakdown.

"This really is the start of a new age on England's motorways."

The agency's advice before using the stretch is to ensure your car is well maintained and has sufficient

petrol to limit breakdowns, but says there will be 'emergency refuge' areas for cars to pull into.

The 'smart motorways' technology will see more variable speed limits based on real time traffic situations, designed to help the motorway keep moving.

Transformation of the motorway is well ahead of schedule. It had been expected to be completed by December.

What do you think? Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Crook stole valuables from pupils' clothes in school changing rooms

A BRAZEN thief who sneaked into a host of schools across west Kent and stole valuables from children's belongings left in changing rooms, has been jailed.

Darren Dixon, 34, of Browning Road, Dartford, stole mobile phones, watches, wallets and school bags during a spree of burglaries in 2012.

The thief would target classes while they were engaged in PE or games' lessons and rummage for valuables.

Pupils would then return to find items such as iPods, watches and phones had been stolen.

Dixon this week started a 19-month sentence after being jailed at Maidstone Crown Court.

Dixon entered the Judd School in Tonbridge on February 1, 2012, while pupils were being taught in a sports hall.

He discovered children's belongings in an unlocked changing room and stole from coats, trousers and bags.

Days before, the cruel crook had also snatched school bags, cash,

credit cards and a valuable watch after he breached security at Sevenoaks School.

On each occasion Dixon loaded the stolen items into a white van.

He was arrested after the vehicle was detected on automatic number plate recognition cameras.

After initially denying the offences, he pleaded guilty to three counts of burglary, after also admitting a break-in at a property in Gravesend on June 26. He admitted a further offence of dangerous driving.

Dixon was sentenced to a total of 16 months for the burglaries and three months for dangerous driving. He was also disqualified from driving for a year.

Detective Constable Laura Pallet said: "These offences will have been very upsetting for the pupils, who returned from lessons to find their bags and clothes had been gone through and in some cases even taken.

"His victims can at least take comfort from the fact Dixon is now paying for his actions behind bars."

Life sentence for husband who strangled wife in a field

AN ESTRANGED husband who harassed his wife after their marriage broke down before beating and strangling her with a piece of rope in a field in Broadstairs, was sentenced on Friday to a 25-year jail term.

Lee Birch, 55, admitted to killing Anne-Marie Birch, 47, on November 7, last year.

On the day of her murder, having moved out of the house they

shared in Nethercourt Gardens, he approached her as she walked dogs as part of her dog-walking business.

He strangled her in a field off Whiteness Road.

He also beat her over the head with a branch.

Her body was found by a member of the public. Shortly afterwards, Birch called police to confess to his crime.

Millions to be raised from auction of vintage vehicles

A COLLECTION of vintage motor vehicles, including a Rolls Royce from 1914 valued at up to £500,000 will go under the auctioneer's hammer later this year.

More than 50 vehicles will form part of more than 1,000 lots up for grabs as part of the Michael Banfield collection being sold by Bonhams.

Mr Banfield, from Staplehurst, started the collection in 1959.

This year it is expected to sell for several million pounds.

Bonhams said the sale "will provide a rare opportunity for collectors to acquire items which rarely come onto the market".

Among the items will be a 1904 Mors Roi des Belges with an estimate of £600,000 and a 1922 double-decker bus for £110,000.

The sale takes place in June.



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Runners head to capital for London Marathon

HUNDREDS of runners will head into London this weekend to take part in one of the world's best-loved annual spectacles – the London Marathon.

The 26-mile race takes place on Sunday with more than 40,000 people taking part – the vast majority raising money for a variety of good causes.

And many thousands more will flock to the capital to line the streets to not only cheer on friends and family,

but take part in the special atmosphere which surrounds the event.

The race starts at Blackheath and finishes on The Mall outside Buckingham Palace.

Southeastern has organised a number of extra services on Sunday morning to help cater for the crowds.

We at KoS wish all competitors the very best of luck.

Thousands of children at risk from traffic pollution, claims leading Euro MP

By Sarah Linney

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

JUST two weeks after the county found itself facing soaring levels of air pollution, a Euro MP has waded into the debate by claiming thousands of children in the county could be suffering.

He claims it is a consequence of increasing levels of traffic belching out pollution close to many of our schools.

Speaking as he met campaigners in Canterbury this week, Green MEP Keith Taylor, who represents the south east of England at the European Parliament, says that 12 schools in the county are less than 150 metres from a heavy traffic point – where 10,000 or more cars pass daily.

This, he claims, means roughly 7,200 pupils are at an increased risk of developing asthma and even permanent damage to their lungs.

He said: "We know that air pollution is a serious threat to children's



THREAT: Are our children at risk?

health, and we know that thousands of people die every year because of the effects of air pollution.

"Children and the elderly are most at risk. Research has shown that living near heavy traffic points can be

attributed to between 15 and 30 per cent of new asthma cases in children, as well as affecting the development of lung capacity.

"I find that totally unacceptable as a politician and as a parent. We have a right to breathe the clean air."

However, his claims will be opposed by some.

In 2012, the NHS said although research suggested an association between long-term exposure to some forms of air pollution and an increased risk of premature death, a link had not been conclusively proven.

However, the UK is already facing fines of up to £300 million a year over its failure to cut levels of nitrogen dioxide, a gas that is believed to cause premature death and affect the growth of children's lungs.

The European Commission is taking legal action against Britain because it has not come up with a plan to get levels of the toxic gas, produced mainly by diesel vehicles, below agreed limits.

Limits which were supposed to have been hit some four years ago.



MISSED: Pat Wilson

Remembering Pat Wilson and her campaigns

TRIBUTES were paid this week to one of the county's most tireless campaigners for paths and open spaces.

Pat Wilson was vice president of the Open Spaces Society and fought the cause for more than 50 years.

She died peacefully at her home in Kent on April 4. She was 97.

Before that she served as Kent Ramblers' footpath secretary. She was the president and founder of the Meopham and District Footpaths Group.

A spokesman for the Open Spaces Society said: "Pat saved countless paths and open spaces in Kent and Medway."

"In 2012 she claimed more than 120 urban alleyways in Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham for the official path-map."

"Her name is inextricably linked to legal cases which have clarified path law in the public interest – she instigated two far-reaching ramblers' cases which not only saved paths in Kent but set crucial precedents for other paths."

Kate Ashbrook, general secretary of the Open Spaces Society, who worked with Mrs Wilson for more than 30 years, added:

"She was feisty and determined, and tirelessly hard-working to the very end. Were it not for her hard work, path-users would be much the poorer."

Reward after trucks 'driven off cliff edge'

A BUSINESSMAN has put up a £10,000 reward after his construction company was hit by crooks who damaged £65,000 worth of machinery.

The break-in took place at HE Services on the Medway City Estate in Strood at some point last weekend.

A locked, former quarry tunnel, used to store excavators and machines, was broken into.

The machines were then driven into a nearby empty chalk pit, and damaged, including one machine, worth £20,000 which was driven off a cliff, close to nearby residences, after the perpetrators had cable-tied the controls.

Police are currently carrying out investigations into the raid, with the firm's chairman, Hugh Edeleanu, putting up the reward for information to anyone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

Anyone who believes they can help the investigation should call Det Con Goddard at Kent Police on 01634 792467

Motorcyclist, 23, dead after horror smash

AN INVESTIGATION continues into a crash on Wednesday night which left a 23-year-old motorcyclist dead.

The smash took place at around 6.50pm on the A249 Brielle Way at Sheerness, on Sheppey.

The victim was riding a white Yamaha 125cc motorcycle in the direction of Queenborough along the section of the A249 running adjacent to Cromwell Road.

It hit a white Mercedes Vito van travelling in the opposite direction.

The rider, a local man, was taken to a London hospital but was declared dead. His identity has not yet been confirmed.

Officers from the Kent Police Serious Collision Investigation Unit are heading up an investigation into the incident and have asked any witnesses, who have not yet spoken to police, to contact them as soon as possible.

Anybody with information is asked to call PC Jamie Woodhams on 01622 798538.

Duo burnt after BBQ explodes in their face

TWO men were left with burns to their face after a barbecue exploded as they tipped fuel onto the hot coals.

The pair, from Southborough, in Tunbridge Wells, had tipped fuel used to power remote control cars onto the barbecue.

Emergency crews were called after the explosion which occurred on Woolley Grove at around 5.30pm on Wednesday.

On arrival the crew swiftly put out the fire and assisted ambulance crews in treating two men suffering from burns to their face and chest.

Watch manager Mark Havell said: "It appears that the two men were trying to light the barbecue and attempted to speed up the process by using fuel used for remote control cars. Unfortunately, the vapours from the fuel ignited leading to both men suffering from burns."

"I cannot stress enough how dangerous using accelerants such as petrol to light a barbecue or bonfire really is. Always keep safety in mind."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Cabinet set to formally reject airport proposals

SWALE council chiefs are set to officially oppose any proposal for a Thames Estuary airport, following the interim findings of the Davies Commission published in December.

The council – which along with Medway would be the most blighted by any such development – will meet on Wednesday.

The commission has not

short-listed an estuary site, but is conducting more research later this year before its final report is delivered to the Prime Minister next year.

Gerry Lewin, deputy leader of Swale Borough Council, said: "The decision to object to these proposals has not been made lightly. A report was commissioned in order to



ascertain all of the facts and possibilities about building a new airport.

"The findings left us with no alternative but to object... we would support Medway Council's opposition to the proposals."

Sir Roger to meet Gloag over Manston 'closure'

THANET North MP Sir Roger Gale will hold face-to-face talks with the owner of Manston Airport this week in a bid to discuss its future.

Ann Gloag, who bought the site for £1 in October, announced last month she intends to close the airfield after failing to clinch several crucial deals.

Sir Roger and Ms Gloag,

founder of the Stagecoach empire, will meet in London.

Meanwhile, KLM jetted out of the airport for the final time this week, confirming it would not be returning even if a new owner is secured.

Workers were also given a glimmer of hope after the union Unite extended the consultation period beyond May 11.

...also

Celebrate St George

ST GEORGE's Day will be celebrated in style next weekend at the Riverside Country Park in Medway.

The event will see a host of family fun events designed to celebrate England, with special visits planned from 'Winston Churchill' and 'Queen Victoria'.

Meet the commissioner

THERE's another chance to quiz the county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Ann Barnes, this week.

She, along with the Chief Constable, will be at Gravsham Borough Council's offices on Wednesday, from 6.30 to 8pm. Visit www.kent-pcc.gov.uk to book a place.

Growth fund update

AN UPDATE on Regional Growth Funds will be delivered to a committee of Kent County Council on Tuesday.

The growth economic development and community cabinet committee will meet for updates on projects including Expansion East Kent, Escalate and Tiger.

Get set for Easter rush

PORTS are bracing themselves for one of the busiest times of the year next weekend as the great Easter getaway begins.

With many schools having been off for the last few weeks, big demand is expected on Monday as people head back to the UK, via Kent, after a Continental break.

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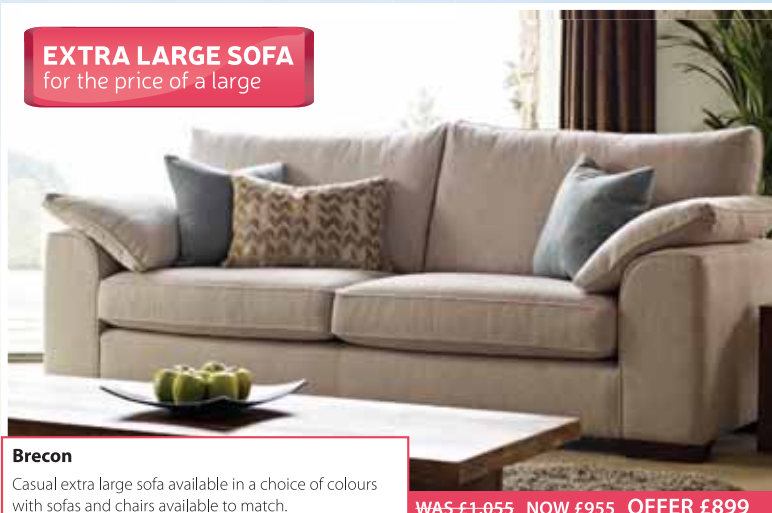


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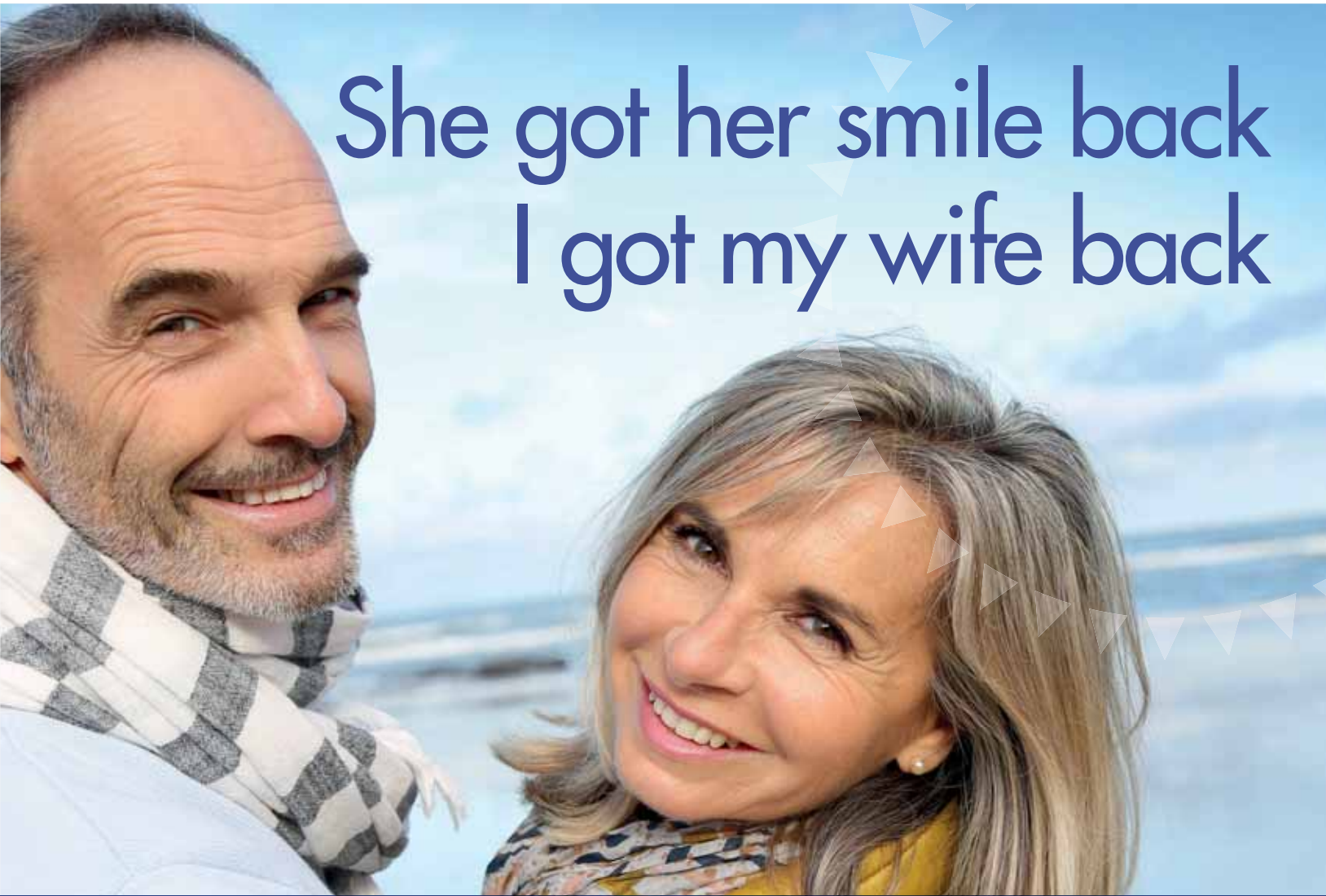
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A photograph of a middle-aged couple smiling at each other on a beach. The man is on the left, wearing a grey and white checkered scarf. The woman is on the right, with grey hair and a yellow top. The background shows a beach and the ocean under a blue sky with some clouds. There are decorative white triangles in the upper right corner.

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HOW traffic chiefs intend to control traffic flows into the Dartford tunnel after the removal of the toll booths remains unclear after the Highways Agency shed a little more light on work leading up to the removal of the barriers in just six months time.

Currently, despite the frustration caused to motorists, the toll booths act as a filtering system to slow traffic down and control flows as vehicles approach the crossing.

There are more than half a dozen lanes converging on the toll booths at the moment and just four tunnel bores for vehicles to go through.

On the return into Kent, motorists again are slowed by the booths as they look to filter on to several lanes of traffic linking back into the county's major road network.

Removal of the booths will create what has been billed as entirely 'free-flowing' crossing.

The new system, where motorists have to pay remotely, will come into force this October.

Ironically, the worst of the disruption to motorists as the changes are implemented to the approaches, is expected at the point the toll rises from its current cost of £2 to £2.50.

For the last four years, anyone who has had to use the Dartford Crossing on a regular basis has been counting down the days until the toll booths are demolished.

It is hoped the plan to scrap them, announced in 2010, should help ease the daily congestion at one of the county's traffic pinch points.

They will be replaced by a number plate recognition system which will capture the details of every vehicle using the bridge. To avoid being hit by a hefty fine, motorists will need to pay in advance – or within a day of using the crossing – either online, via text message or at one of a number of participating retailers.

Yet despite being only six months away from the biggest change to the crossing since the QEII Bridge was opened back in 1991, trying to secure exact dates as to when key aspects of the work takes place is not easy.

Interestingly, however, the Highways Agency – the Government department behind the plans – admit what they don't show are "traffic control measures" which will be required.

So what do we know for sure?

The first movement, as we reported last week, is that signs will begin to be erected later this month on key approach roads highlighting the changes ahead. Some will remain covered up until October, but work will begin before April is out.

It marks the start of the public information campaign, which will be recognised by the use of the Dart Charge catchline and logo. This will start appearing in shops where mo-

“All work at the crossing is being planned carefully to minimise disruption while ensuring that the crossing remains safe for road users”

Highways Agency,
On Dartford Crossing changes

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



TOLL-FREE: From October you will pay for the use of the crossing remotely – via the internet, text message, phone or at a retailer displaying the Dart Charge logo

Countdown begins to the end of crossing toll booths

In October the toll booths are due to be removed from the QEII Bridge, but as **Chris Murphy** discovers, the Highways Agency is somewhat vague on timings

WHAT THE CHANGES WILL MEAN TO MOTORISTS

If you use the Dartford Crossing from October, you will no longer be stopped at toll booths to hand over your payment.

Instead, your vehicle's number plate will be captured by a host of cameras positioned on the entry and exit points of the tunnel and bridge.

You will, therefore, need to pay for the use of the crossing remotely. This will primarily be via the internet, text message, phone

or at one of a number of retailers displaying the Dart Charge logo.

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "The Dartford-Thurrock river crossing is a vital transport link and the Government is committed to reducing congestion at this crucial gateway both now and in the future.

"We are introducing newer technology and changing the road layout. The scheme will be launched during October 2014.

"The exact date is still to be confirmed.

"You will be able to pay in advance of crossing or before midnight the day after crossing.

"It will still be cheaper and easier to have an account which can save up to one-third on every crossing.

"Drivers who don't pay the charge will face a penalty.

"It will still be free to use the crossing between 10pm and 6am."

plaza first, and then move gradually across until they start on the south-bound ones.

"Some of the barriers will remain on the north side because of some over-height lorries – they have to be sent to the right tunnel.

"Ironically, the work starts when the new charge starts. So at first, drivers will pay more to get road works.

"They have a protocol, at the moment, for lifting charges if there is serious congestion. I asked them what would happen during the work phases and whether they were going to have a compensation package for drivers. They have taken that away with them for consideration. I don't think they will for one minute."

He added: "I also told them that I think the free-flow system will cause some problems.

"Some drivers won't pay, they will forget to pay, they won't know they have to pay, and won't know how.

"What if they can't log on, and there can't be phone numbers on signs because people will be driving?"

"But in the long term, better journey times of about nine minutes means this is just a sticking plaster on the problem. We need a third crossing."

■ What do you think? Enter the debate. Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

torists can pay the toll in advance, as well as in renewals for tax discs.

The Highways Agency say "system build and testing" will be complete by August, with the new remote method of payment going live in September.

One month later, and work begins on ripping down the toll booths. The entire process should be completed by the spring of 2015.

A spokesman for the Highways Agency said: "In the spring of this year we will be doing some advance construction work at the crossing to prepare for the introduction of the new remote payment system in October.

"After the introduction of the new system, we will start the main roadworks at the crossing to remove the

booths and introduce a new road layout. This work is due to be completed in spring 2015.

"All work at the crossing is being planned carefully to minimise disruption while ensuring that the crossing remains safe for road users.

"Traffic control measures that include a system of traffic lights and barriers will be used on the approach to the tunnels northbound."

These are likely to be introduced to allow tall sided lorries to pass through without problems.

During the work, there will be some inevitable hold-ups as the booths are finally removed and the various gantries erected.

"Most of the work will be done

overnight when traffic is at its lightest and when the cost of the crossing is free."

Motoring organisations are, however, not impressed.

Fresh from a meeting with the Highways Agency, the AA spokesman Paul Watters, said: "We have long said these tolls should be paying for a third crossing.

"We did agree with Highways there would be some disruption while the work goes on, it is hard to avoid that. They are going to maintain four lanes in each direction while the work is done, apart from some times at night.

"They will start removing some of the toll booths from the northbound

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Hop Farm Festival's new boss vows to strike the right note

WHEN it comes to unheralded heroes of the working man, Terry Butkeraitis would certainly lay claim to being just that.

Far from a household name, his death in January still sparked an outpouring of grief – for this was a man who from the most humble beginnings fought against what he saw as injustice against the common man.

From the coalfields of Derbyshire he battled tirelessly during the miners' strike of the 1980s. He found himself in and out of jail for his actions and, at one stage, was ordered by a court not to live anywhere connected to the coal industry.

It led him to Brixton, and would put him on a remarkable path.

After working at the Glastonbury Festival, pulling beer to help raise funds for miners' families, he teamed up with activists in London who had just formed the Workers' Beer Company.

Since then it has become a familiar site at the biggest outdoor events – Glastonbury, Reading, Leeds and the Latitude festivals are all regular destinations.

Today it is the only operator of festival bars in the UK owned by the trade union movement – describing itself as 'thirst among equals'.

The late Mr Butkeraitis developed an enviable reputation in the festival scene – working with legends such as Reading's Vince Power and Glastonbury's Michael Eavis in ensuring the music lovers attending were never short of a pint and in a safe environment.

But what, you may ask, has this got to do with Kent?

Well in July a phoenix from the flames emerges – and the name Butkeraitis is leading the charge.

Neil Butkeraitis is Terry's son – and he's also the new promoter of the revamped Hop Farm Music Festival at Paddock Wood.

For three days, it will serve up a diet of music, comedy and art in the



PROMOTER: Neil Butkeraitis is the front man for a festival under completely new management

Neil Butkeraitis was 'brought up' on festivals and has some 'quirky ideas' to help raise the profile and the prestige of the three-day summer event as **Chris Britcher** finds out...

grounds of the popular tourist destination.

The line-up this time around is broad and frequently impressive. Beach Boys' star Brian Wilson, the Kinks' Ray Davies and diva Grace Jones all headline, while a strong supporting cast includes everyone from James Blunt to Deacon Blue and Maximo Park to Chas and Dave. Eclectic, certainly. But one which demands some attention.

But it faces a challenge in its bid to sell all its 20,000 tickets.

The ghost of its previous incarnation haunts it.

“I met the Hop Farm guys and we just hit it off. So UK Events took it over. I'd done some work at one of the first Hop Farm Festivals, so I've known the event”

Neil Butkeraitis,
Hop Farm Festival promoter

Former supremo Vince Power had been staging the Hop Farm Festival since 2008 – heralding it as a festival featuring music legends and no corporate sponsorship.

And for many years it was a critical success. Headline acts included the likes of Prince, Morrissey, Bob Dylan and Neil Young. But financially it never broke even (Prince's two-hour set came with a \$1m (£600,000) price tag alone).

Eventually, after the company behind it went into financial meltdown – owing thousands to performers and suppliers – last year's event was can-

celled and, it seemed, that was the end of that.

But late last year it emerged the Hop Farm Festival name was coming back – and this time, Vince Power was nowhere to be seen.

Instead Neil Butkeraitis, managing director of UK Events – a Workshop-based promotions company which stages a host of other events across the UK, including some 1980s festivals – had taken over the reins.

“It came about by a chance meeting,” the 40-year-old explains to KoS this week. “I met the Hop Farm guys and we just hit it off. So UK Events took it over.”

“I'd originally done some production work at one of the first Hop Farm Festivals, so I've known the event for a little while.”

Given his upbringing, Mr Butkeraitis admits he was “brought up” on festivals, following his father and eventually helping him by working with him too.

“I got involved in the security side of things at first,” he explains in a thick northern drawl, “and as I got older I came across to the production side more. I formed UK Events about eight years ago, and since then have taken over a few events that have been struggling and turned them around.”

Certainly, that's exactly what the Hop Farm brand needs. Somehow it needs to make the equation that big names plus big crowds equal profit. Or at least break even.

Not that the path has been made easy thus far.

When it was confirmed Paddock Wood would once again host an event, Vince Power came out claiming he would be putting on a rival event near Tunbridge Wells, and using the same name. Perhaps, inevitably, nothing ever materialised.

“The name belongs to the Hop Farm,” says the new promoter. “The

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Hop Farm's owner is adamant about that, so legally we're fine to use it. It would be a bit odd to stage a Hop Farm Festival somewhere other than at a hop farm.

"I've never met Vince Power, but I would never say a bad word about him. He's a legend in the industry and, to be honest, it's not caused us any grief.

"It's just a business thing we've decided to do with the owner of the Hop Farm.

"I never get involved in the politics though. I'm approaching this from a completely new perspective."

And, like all the best management figures, that perspective comes from having worked his way up, and having fulfilled many of the roles he will be employing others to do.

"From a security point of view, I'm used to standing on a gate and observing things. So I can see how a lot of things are wasted, and how things can be done more cost effectively.



HEADLINERS: Prince (below left) in 2011. This year Grace Jones stars

"I think most promoters don't experience how the site is set up, for example. I see that."

Work on building the site ready for the event starts in June – he admits he'll be down on site for the duration and will be "putting up fences" along with the best of them.

He admits, however, past problems may take some getting over.

"Will we sell out?" he asks, "I think that's probably hard to say, but I think we'll get close to doing so.

"We're planning on a lot of things on the site to make it a little more quirky, and to attract people to come and spend the weekend here.

"One thing we heard before was lots of people were turning up at 8pm each night to come and watch the headliners, and then go. We want people to enjoy the whole experience.

"It's a change of concept – we are a new event. We are a completely new Hop Farm Festival."

Certainly the one complaint frequently levelled at the former event was that while it frequently delivered with impressive headline acts, it fell desperately short of atmosphere away from the main stages. In a nutshell, there simply wasn't much to do.

Failure to deliver on that could be the hinge on which the new-look events lives or dies.

"We have got a five-year plan for the festival," the promoter adds. "We don't expect to make millions in year one.

"We know the site needs some investment, which we're doing, and it will take some growing and regaining the trust of people so we're looking at that. And we're making the site more efficient. We just need people to give us a chance."

In these austere times, however, it's a tough ask to persuade people to part with £165 per head for a weekend camping pass – however good the

HOP FARM FESTIVAL: HISTORY OF LOSSES

THE Hop Farm Festival, in its previous incarnation, struggled to break even after paying big money for the biggest acts – only to then struggle to recoup the costs on the door.

With a capacity of more than 50,000 it only expanded into a three-day event in 2011, when Prince was secured for what remains his one and only UK festival performance.

Prior to that it had begun life as a one-day event, before extending to two for 2009 and 2010.

Promoter Vince Power always said he expected to lose money for the first few years, but after five years of seeing no return, he declared defeat.

Despite the big names, it always struggled to sell-out. Prince may have grabbed the headlines, but even he wasn't able to shift enough tickets. The 2011 event was, comfortably, its most powerful, yet it failed to return a profit.

The 2012 event struggled to emulate the previous year and ticket sales reflected that. It was also hit by a wet summer and competition from the likes of the Olympic Games being held in London.

It meant the company set up to manage the festival, Kent Festival, went into administration. As KoS exposed last year, it did so owing a list of creditors some £4.8m. Among them was £100,000 owing to headliner Peter Gabriel and £22,000 to Kent Police.

An angry Vince Power denied the claims and vowed to bounce back that summer. After months of delays, he announced the 2013 event would return to a two-day event and be on a reduced capacity of just 20,000. Gone too were the legends. Ticket sales were lacklustre, however, and the festival was shelved shortly afterwards.

Mr Power simply shrugged the loss off and set up a new company, with which he continues to promote major events.

The Hop Farm Festival is now under completely new management and fresh promoters.

line-up and promise of entertainment is.

In an attempt to fine-tune the offering there will be even that most unusual of sights at a festival – a customer service team on site getting feedback from revellers.

Adds Mr Butkeraitis: "I've done festivals all my life and I know what does and what doesn't work. But we want to get people's comments so we can improve going forward.

"I want some things to change too. Even things like disability toilets – normally anyone can use them.

"This year we've brought the disa-

bled camping area closer to the stage, and the toilets will have codes on so only just registered users can use them. That's only fair."

If the same attention to detail is rolled out across the site, it could just prove to be the making of the event's rebirth. And for everyone involved – the venue, the promoter, the festival-goers and the local economy – that would indeed be worth making a song and dance about.

■ **The Hop Farm Music Festival takes place in Paddock Wood over July 4-6. For details and tickets, see www.thehopfarmmusicfestival.com**

2008 (one-day):
Neil Young, Primal Scream, Supergrass.

2009 (two-days):
Paul Weller, Florence & The Machine, the Fratellis.

2010 (two-days):

HOP FARM FESTIVAL

PREVIOUS

HEADLINERS:

Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Ray Davies, Blondie, Mumford & Sons.

2011 (three-days):
Prince, Morrissey, The Eagles, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop, Bryan Ferry.

2012 (three-days):
Bob Dylan, Peter Gabriel, Ray Davies, Suede, Sir Bruce Forsyth.

2013 (cancelled):

FESTIVALS: THE BEST OF THE REST

- **June 27-29 – Glastonbury:**
Kasabian, Arcade Fire, Dolly Parton.
The big daddy of all the festivals – a huge mini-city in Somerset with a stellar line-up and a rush for tickets which sends the internet into meltdown.
- **July 17-20 – Latitude, Southwold, Suffolk:**
Damon Albarn, The Black Keys, Two Door Cinema Club.
Described as a music festival for BBC Radio 4 listeners, Latitude has long since held claim to be the destination of choice for the middle classes.
- **July 17-20 – Guilfest, Guildford, Surrey:**
Boomtown Rats, Human League, Kool and the Gang.
It's been going for more than 20 years and prides itself as a family event and, after some difficult years, it's back in full effect.
- **August 2 – Lounge on the Farm, Canterbury:**
Fun Lovin' Criminals, Peter Hook.
Kent's finest home-grown event bows out of traditional home at Merton Farm with a one-day extravaganza, vowing to return, at a new venue, next year.
- **August 15-17 – Rewind 2014 - Henley-on-Thames, Oxford:**
Holly Johnson, Rick Astley, UB40, Boomtown Rats, Jimmy Somerville.
Like the 1980s? Then this retro event will be positively dripping in a blast from the past and a line-up sure to set toes tapping.
- **August 16-17 – V Festival, Chelmsford, Essex:**
The Killers, Justin Timberlake, Kaiser Chiefs.
Another incredible line-up for a festival which has long since established itself as a major player – plus it's only a short drive for most people from Kent.



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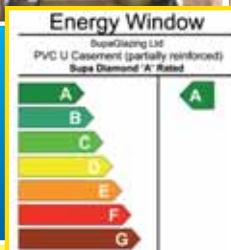
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The death of Peaches Geldof this week sent shockwaves around the nation. **Chris Britcher** reports on a week full of tears and trauma...

Family comes to terms with latest tragedy in Geldof saga

THE truth behind the death of Peaches Geldof – the 25-year-old daughter of Live Aid hero Bob – may not be known until the end of the month.

While friends and family still struggle to come to terms with her loss, a post-mortem examination conducted on Wednesday proved inconclusive.

Toxicology tests are now being examined, but the results of which could "take weeks".

Unconfirmed reports suggest there were no obvious signs of injury, no drugs found at her home and no suicide note.

The only concerns prior to her death related to her weight, with her final photographs showing her apparently very thin.

A Kent Police spokesman said: "This is being treated as a non-suspicious, unexplained sudden death. Officers continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death in order to compile a report for the coroner."

Meanwhile, preparations are under way for her funeral. Her body was released to her family on Wednesday night.

Her father, Bob Geldof, had been in the US at the time of her death and jetted back to Heathrow on Wednesday to be reunited with his family at their London home in Battersea.

A memorial service is expected to be held at the church next door to the family home – where Ms Geldof had been raised – in Faversham (see overleaf).

The body of Ms Geldof was found at her home in Fairseat Lane in Wrotham, near Sevenoaks, at 1.35pm on Monday. She and her husband, the singer and musician Thomas Cohen, are believed to have moved there around six months ago, and they were regularly spotted in and around neighbouring Borough Green.

The couple, who married in September 2012, have two young sons – Astala, born in April 2012, and Phaedra, born almost exactly a year later.

“She was the wildest, funniest, cleverest, wittiest and the most bonkers of all of us. Writing ‘was’ destroys me afresh. What a beautiful child. How is this possible that we will not see her again?”

Bob Geldof,

Family tribute to daughter Peaches

The circumstances leading up to the discovery of her body remain clouded in uncertainty. Reports on Friday suggested her husband raised the alarm after she failed to answer his calls. It is also thought Phaedra, 11 months, was in the house at the time. He and Astala had been away overnight, it is claimed.

In the days leading up to her death, all had seemed normal. A prolific user of social media website Twitter, she had kept her followers – which amounted to more than a quarter of a million – up-to-date with details of her life. The day before, last Sunday, she had posted photographs of her children having meals and an Easter decoration she was working on.

Her final ever tweet was of a photograph of her in the arms of her mother, Paula Yates – the TV presenter who died in 2000.

Following the news of her death, her father issued a moving statement signed by himself, his long-time partner, the French actress Jeanne Marine, and Peaches' sisters Fifi, Pixie and Tiger Lily. It read: "Peaches has died. We are beyond pain. She was the wildest, funniest, cleverest, wittiest and the most bonkers of all of us."

"Writing 'was' destroys me afresh. What a beautiful child. How is this possible that we will not see her again? How is that bearable? We loved her and will cherish her forever. How sad that sentence is. Tom and her sons Astala and Phaedra will always belong in our family, fractured so often, but never broken."

Mr Cohen added his own tribute, saying: "My beloved wife Peaches was adored by myself and her two sons. I shall bring them up with their mother in their hearts every day. We shall love her forever."

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LOST: Peaches Geldof, 25, was a devoted mother to her two young sons Astala and Phaedra

Peaches: Destined for life in spotlight

PEACHES Geldof was destined to live a life in the spotlight - and she rarely shied away from it.

Born on March 19, 1989, as the daughter of the one-time darlings of the UK media, the tragedy and triumph of her parents would forever walk alongside her.

At the age of just 14 she started penning regular articles for the likes of the Daily Telegraph, the Guardian, and the short-lived Elle Girl magazine.

At the age of just 16 she presented her own TV documentary - Peaches Geldof: Teenage Mind.

Her sense of style was attracting column

inches too, with Tatler naming the teenager one of the top fashion icons of the year.

In 2007, she began a modelling career, along the way picking up some lucrative endorsement deals.

She was not adverse to temptation, however. She admitted to dabbling with drink and drugs - saying both were "phases people go through".

After moving from London to the US, in August 2008 she married musician Max Drummey in Las Vegas, divorcing a year later. She wed Thomas Cohen in 2012.

Just this year, she began working as a columnist for Mother & Baby magazine.

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How the county has always been a refuge for a famous family

TAKE a short drive up the hill behind the harsh industrial buildings of Faversham's most famous export – Shepherd Neame beer – and you can see the area's appeal.

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Your reward, at the top of that hill, is not only the knowledge of the historic market town's inner beauty, but also a fine medieval church.

Davington Church – St Mary Magdalene and St Lawrence – has stood for centuries in its picturesque grounds. And it is here, once more, perhaps the nation's most famous family of recent years, will gather to mourn their dead. Because it is here that a service to remember the life of Peaches Geldof will take place.

This building has become the focus of tragedy and triumph for the Geldof family over the years – next to the home in which they sought refuge from the sometimes suffocating glare of publicity.

Peaches was christened and married there. More significantly,

perhaps, she grew up in the former Benedictine monastery building which adjoins the church – the Geldofs' home since the 1980s.

Neighbours would see Peaches and her sisters running across to the nearby park, or popping into the shops. Their father, Live Aid hero Bob Geldof, was no stranger either – frequently bringing his family down to their rural retreat to enjoy the peace, and tranquillity afforded by a house sat at the end of a long driveway and away from prying eyes.

The church was where, after a ceremony in Las Vegas, Bob Geldof's marriage to TV presenter Paula Yates, in 1986, was blessed. It was a star-studded affair with the likes of David Bowie, U2 frontman Bono and George Michael all on the guest list. Yet, just 14 years later, it was where many of the same friends and family would gather for a funeral service for Ms Yates.

Their marriage had fractured in February 1995 and the divorce confirmed in 1996, after Ms Yates left him to start a high-profile relationship with INXS singer Michael

Hutchence – a heart-throb whose picture, legend has it, had long been pinned to the Geldof family fridge.

Mr Hutchence even found himself facing Maidstone Magistrates' Court after punching a photographer who had harassed him and Ms Yates as they spent a night in a Kent hotel.

Ms Yates gave birth, in July 1996 to her daughter with Mr Hutchence – Tiger-Lily.

But tragedy was never far behind. In November 1997, Mr Hutchence was found dead in his Sydney hotel room, judged, by a coroner, to have committed suicide. It followed late-night rows on the phone with Bob Geldof in London after legal wrangles over the children meant a planned trip by Paula – and more significantly his daughter Tiger-Lily – was postponed at the last moment.

Ms Yates was left devastated.

In an interview Peaches Geldof gave to Elle magazine, she described it as "the transition of my mother who was amazing, who wrote books on parenting, who gave us this idyllic childhood in Kent; and who then turned into this heartbroken shell of



MOTHER AND DAUGHTER: Peaches Geldof pictured with Paula Yates

a woman who was medicating just to get through the day".

Just three years later, having always denied Mr Hutchence would ever have taken his own life, Paula Yates was found dead in her London flat in 2000 – the victim of an apparent heroin overdose, ruled 'accidental' by a coroner.

It devastated her young family. Peaches was just 11 at the time, Pixie, who was in the flat at the time, had been due to celebrate her 10th

birthday on the day of her death. Fifi Geldof, their eldest daughter, just 17.

In a remarkable twist, Mr Hutchence's daughter, Tiger-Lily was adopted by Mr Geldof and raised alongside his three daughters. The sisters remain close.

After such trauma, it was hoped the Geldof family could now simply enjoy the good times. Peaches' tragic death on Monday left that all shattered – and left two more children without their mother.

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PARLIAMENT OF THE NATIONS: European elections will be held next month... there are 12 UK regions and ours, the south east, has 10 seats up for grabs on May 22. There will be 751 MEPs.

European elections are on the horizon – but what has Brussels ever done for us?



In the first of a series of special reports leading up to the European elections on May 22, **Sarah Linney** looks at just what the European Parliament is and why, more than in Westminster, every vote counts in the battle for MEP seats

THERE'S a classic scene in Monty Python's *Life of Brian* when John Cleese, portraying the leader of the hapless People's Front of Judea, poses what he believes to be a rhetorical question to his followers. "Just what," he says, "have the Romans ever done for us?"

It sparks one of the great exchanges as the rebels preparing to overthrow their 'Roman oppressors' start realising that, in fact, they brought rather a lot.

All of which leaves an exasperated Cleese to exclaim "All right, all right, but apart from better sanitation and medicine and education and irrigation and public health and roads and a freshwater system and baths and public order, what have the Romans done for us?". "Peace!" someone yells. "Oh, shut up!" is the response.

And so it proves with the European Union.

We've a lot to thank it for: 28 days' paid holiday a year, clean water on our beaches, access to health care when we travel to the Continent, all the multi-billion-pound economic benefits of being part of the world's largest single market and plenty more besides.

And it has a lot to thank us for, too. The UK's annual contribution to the EU was 11.3 billion euros in 2012 – that's the equivalent of some £9.3bn.

Little wonder, then, that some see it as a progressive body that tangibly improves the quality of life in Britain, while others view it as a drain on the country's resources, overriding our own politicians.

Either way, it's something that it's difficult not to have a view about.

So on Thursday, May 22, when Kent goes to the polls to choose its MEPs for the next five years, you would expect everyone to turn out and have their say. Right?

Wrong. At the last elections in 2009, just 34.7 per cent of UK voters put their cross in the box, compared with an EU average of 43 per cent.

For an issue so many feel strongly about, apathy seems strange.

"I don't think we in the UK are properly engaged with the European issue," says Liberal Democrat MEP Catherine Bearder, who represents the south east.

"People are scared about Europe because they don't really understand how it works. So we try to avoid it, and if it doesn't coincide with another election, people leave it.

"But that's a bit like sticking your head in the sand. MEPs are unseen a lot of the time, but we are speaking up for the UK.

"The things that Europe deals with are things that benefit all of us – environmental protection, free trade

across borders and protection if you are going to live elsewhere in the EU, for example making sure your will is valid if you move abroad.”

The European Parliament will have 751 members after the May elections and represents the second largest democratic electorate in the world after the Parliament of India. A total of 375 million people were eligible to vote in 2009.

It passes legislation that affects all 28 member states, which are required to comply with its decisions – in some cases overriding national laws.

But its legislation tends to concern transnational issues such as the environment, human rights, international trade and workers' rights, with national matters like taxation, health care and education left to individual nations.

Estimates of what proportion of legislation in Britain now comes from Europe vary between 11 per cent and 75 per cent, normally depending on who is making the argument. It will

“I'd like the public to get informed about how important Europe is to us – and how important we are in Europe. It's a two-way street”

Catherine Bearder,
Liberal Democrat MEP

surprise few that Ukip trumpets the higher figure.

So who you elect is significant. Yet it remains confusing to the uninitiated, too, with a number of MEPs, for example, representing the south east.

Voters in Britain elect MEPs to represent them in the European Parliament, just as they choose MPs for Parliament and councillors for local government. For the European elections, the UK is divided into 12 regions, each with several MEPs.

Kent is part of the south east region, which has 10 MEPs. They cover a constituency encompassing Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and the Isle of Wight – some 8.6 million people.

The UK will elect 73 MEPs in May, using proportional representation, which means that the number of seats a party gets is directly proportional to the number of votes cast for it.

Instead of the first-past-the-post system used in the UK's national elections, where a vote for anyone other than the winning candidate in each constituency won't affect the make-up of Parliament, this means that every vote counts. With no need for tactical voting, people can choose the party they truly support.

And if they don't, says Mrs Bearder, they are denying themselves a voice.

“I'd like the public to get themselves informed about what really happens and how important Europe is to us – and how important we are in Europe. It's a two-way street,” she said.

“Democracy is terribly vulnerable. If you ignore it, someone else will steal it from you. It's the same as anything. You have to vote, or someone else will make the decisions for you.”

THREE SOUTH EAST MEPs IN PROFILE...

Catherine Bearder

Party: Liberal Democrats

“MY dad always said to me: don't get angry, get active. That's why I'm in politics,” says MEP Catherine Bearder.

And no one can deny that the Liberal Democrat MEP is not active. Her week starts with a journey from her home in Oxford to Brussels, where she stays until Thursday afternoon or evening.

“The week in Brussels is varied. We spend some weeks in committees, discussing reports in detail and doing nitty-gritty amendments,” Mrs Bearder said.

“Then we have weeks which we spend in our political groups, reporting from our committees and discussing how we will vote and what line we will take. We might have a mandate from our group to do some more negotiating.

“Once a month we go to Strasbourg, where we vote on all the committee reports. Other time is spent meeting with non-government organisations (NGOs), lobby groups and people who want to talk to me about special issues.

“There is no such thing as a typical week. Just when you think life is settling down, it changes.”

Fridays and Saturdays are spent doing constituency work and Sundays are spent “falling asleep a lot”.

“In the constituency, I spend my time going to meet businesses, local

Lib Dems and people who have contacted me, talking to schools, women's organisations and other groups, and meeting experts on issues like bee conservation,” Mrs Bearder said.

“MEPs don't get anything like the casework that MPs get, although the issues that we deal with are much bigger and we are more likely to get businesses coming to us.”

Ukip says 75 per cent of our laws are made in Brussels, but Mrs Bearder says this figure is “bonkers”.

“I would say between 11 and 20 per cent of our laws are made in Europe. Most of the laws for the UK

“The UK has the third largest population in the EU and therefore the third largest number of MEPs”

are made by the UK here in Westminster,” she said.

“Some of the laws we have no choice over, but other laws and directives get UK-adapted. For example, we're told to recycle 70 per cent of all our waste to stop landfill, but how it's then recycled and what to recycle is decided by Westminster.

“And if they don't like a directive, they send it back to the MEPs and the council. Since the Lisbon Treaty, Westminster has a duty to




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scrutinise anything that we bring out. There are a lot of myths in newspapers, from bendy bananas to how we are being swamped by immigrants. Most of them are scare stories put about by the opponents of the EU."

She says that, far from being criticised for spending time in Brussels, MEPs should be praised because they are doing their job of representing the UK.

"We do a lot of work standing up for the UK, so it's absolutely vital that we are sitting there as the UK's voice," she said.

"The UK has the third largest population in the EU and therefore the third largest number of MEPs – we have a huge influence. But we can only use that by turning up. If you are not there, someone else is going to make the rules for you."

"When some people think of Europe, they think it's something coming at them, but it's something we're playing a full role in."

She said she hoped turnout would be higher than in the 2009 election.

"We have had this debate about in or out and I think the issues are much clearer. I think people are more interested now in what Europe is doing," Mrs Bearder said.

"Europe is enormously important for the UK, especially as we are recovering from the huge recession that hit most of the western world."

"It's vital people engage with this, know why they are voting and turn out and vote."

Keith Taylor Party: Greens

"A TYPICAL week has about eight days in it," Keith Taylor says wryly of his jam-packed schedule as Green MEP for the south east.

He spends four days a week at the European Parliament in either Brussels or Strasbourg, at least one day a week campaigning in the constituency, and as much of his weekends as he can at his home in Brighton, where his family live.

The grandfather-of-three began his political career in 1999 when he was elected to Brighton and Hove Council and he has been an MEP since 2009.

"When I started out as a councillor in Brighton, I thought that was busy!" he said.

"Now I am active across a whole range of issues that involve trying to secure a better quality of life for the people I represent."

"Our priority is putting people and the planet at the centre of policy, not business. I want a Europe that is a force for the common good and free of inequalities, whatever your race or religion."

"The challenge is enormous and the potential for good is enormous."

These issues include air pollution – he has just released a report on the effects of heavy traffic near schools on Kent's children – fracking and the effects of the Government's austerity measures, such as changes to benefits and the



bedroom tax, on the community.

"We have to recognise the opportunities that Europe offers for doing things that are really worthwhile. There's so much that we can do," Mr Taylor said.

"Eighty per cent of environmental legislation comes from Europe, as well as social things like the Working Time Directive and the right to belong to a trade union, and new laws to cap bankers' bonuses."

"The Working Time Directive was about equality. A view was taken that the working people of Europe should be protected from exploitation by their employer, so it

“I want people to vote for a Europe for the common good. Don't just hope for a better future, vote for it”

offers protection to the employee from being over-worked.

"We wouldn't have clean beaches if it wasn't for Europe. We wouldn't be able to insist on improvements for air quality and we'd be soaked in genetically-modified food."

So what does he think needs to be done to improve the chronically low turnout at elections?

"I think people need to understand what Europe does and how we can benefit from our

membership," Mr Taylor said.

"Other people say we are better off out of Europe, but they don't say what would happen to our membership of the single market, or talk about the people who would not want to involve the UK."

"Those people are harking back to halcyon days when Britain ruled the waves, but those days never existed. They are conning people into thinking that they have a solution, but they haven't."

"I support calls for a referendum, but we want to reform Europe and make it better."

Instead, Mr Taylor said, people should think about all the positives the European Union brings.

"I am a simple chap. I became a politician because I wanted to look out for what's best for people," he said.

"I am doing this because I believe passionately in equality and all the things that the Greens believe in – care for the environment and making sure resources are still there for our children."

"We have 58 MEPs across Europe and are the fourth largest group in the Parliament, so what we say makes a difference. And because of proportional representation, every single vote does count."

"I want to encourage people to vote for a Europe for the common good. Don't just hope for a better future, vote for a better future."

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Nigel Farage

Party: Ukip

"I AM the most untypical MEP you could ever talk to," Nigel Farage admits.

He's not wrong. As leader of the UK Independence Party (Ukip), which opposes Britain's membership of the EU, Mr Farage's own aim is to put himself out of business.

"I think it's a delicious irony," he said.

"I have a completely different objective from other MEPs. They all believe in Britain's membership of the EU and see their job as being there to defend British interests within the integration process. I don't want to reform Europe. My job is for there to be no MEPs."

A day off is a rarity for the controversial Ukip frontman from Westerham, who estimates that he puts in 100 hours a week.

"It is mega," he admits.

"I left here at 5.30am yesterday and got back at 1am. The phone started at 6.15am this morning. There is no such thing as a typical week."

Figures vary as to what proportion of our laws are made in Europe but Mr Farage says it is 75 per cent.

"If you speak to anyone in Kent, anyone who runs a business or owns a shop, when it comes to employment legislation, health and safety at work and environmental law, it is almost irrelevant who is in Westminster," he said.

"But the European Union does nothing that we couldn't do. I travel extensively around Europe and engage in political debate to try to push my alternative version – a Europe that is about trade and cooperation but not politics."

Most of his time is spent dealing with constituency matters, including attending public meetings and helping people with their individual problems, as well as talking to the media.

"I do go to Brussels or Strasbourg and, yes, I will go along and vote for things to make the situation slightly less bad, but my priority is the work I do in the

“I have a completely different objective from other MEPs... my job is for there to be no MEPs”

constituency," Mr Farage said.

"Overseas property problems are a very common issue. People buy a plot of land in Spain and then find a developer is going to build a motorway through it and they have no rights. In those instances I can write letters, lobby the commissioner and submit written questions.

"Another issue is people being imprisoned in parts of Europe where prison standards are no better than in Third World countries – we are



trying to get that changed.

"Spending five days a week in Brussels and signing in for a daily allowance is not what I'm about."

So what, in his view, are the biggest issues for people in Kent?

"Open-door immigration is number one. It's number one, number two, number three, number four and number five," Mr Farage said.

"It affects primary-school places, waiting times in A&E, young people getting jobs, wages falling over the last 10 years, and has led to the biggest change in communities we've ever seen in this country. "We have an open door to 485 million people, and Kent is and always will be the front line."

He believes the low turnout at elections is partly down to opposition to the EU and people's unwillingness to engage with an institution they do not support.

"It's been a case of wilful abstention," Mr Farage said.

"People haven't seen the elections as being very relevant. They have never heard of their MEPs, probably because they spend most of their lives in Brussels.

"If people feel that way, they have got a party that represents them. If you think running our own country and controlling our own borders matters, then get involved. Don't give up, don't do nothing.

"If it wasn't for UKIP we wouldn't even be talking about a referendum. This is the chance to give the establishment a shock."

SOUTH EAST MEPs

■ Daniel Hannan (Conservative)

Lives: Hassocks, West Sussex
Email: daniel.hannan@europarl.europa.eu
www.hannan.co.uk

■ Nigel Farage (Ukip)

Lives: Westerham, Kent
Email: nigel.farage@europarl.europa.eu
www.nigelfaragemep.co.uk

■ Richard Ashworth (Conservative)

Lives: Haywards Heath, West Sussex
Email: richardjames.ashworth@europarl.europa.eu
www.richardashworth.org

■ Sharon Bowles (Lib Dem)

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Email: info@sharonbowles.org.uk
www.sharonbowles.org.uk

■ Keith Taylor (Greens)

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■ Peter Skinner (Labour)

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Cathedral city wins vote for own version of Monopoly board game

...and you can nominate which locations are to go where, writes **Chris Britcher**

CANTERBURY has won a public vote to be transformed into its very own version of classic board game Monopoly.

The city beat off the challenge of 19 other towns in the county. A final six had been short-listed in a public vote taking place over the last few weeks.

More than 6,000 votes were cast, with Canterbury narrowly seeing off nearest rivals Tunbridge Wells, closely followed by Dover, Rochester, Margate and Maidstone.

And now the public will get to vote all over again – but this time just on which Canterbury landmarks will populate the special edition of the classic board game.

The public are invited to nominate which locations – and crucially where they should appear on the board – over a 10-day voting period.

So, for example, Mayfair could become Canterbury Cathedral; Sturry Road could be the Old Kent Road.

The four train stations from the original London board will take on a 'travel' feel. They could be handed over

to a selection of key transport landmarks – including the city's two train stations as well as 'Westgate' as a transport gateway to the city centre.

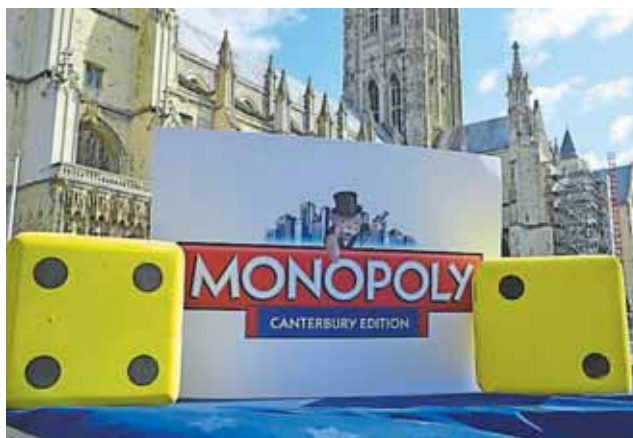
There will be 22 Canterbury property locations up for grabs, while many of the Community Chest and Chance cards will be customised, too.

The board is being made by Winning Moves UK, which has the official licence from Monopoly-owner Hasbro to produce the game.

Sets are expected to be on sale in time for Christmas and should retail for about £25.

However, this will not be the first regional variation. A Kent edition has been on sale in the past, while there are dozens of versions dedicated to individual towns.

■ **The chance to influence what appears on the board runs until midnight on April 17.** Send nominations and suggestions to canterbury@winningmoves.co.uk or visit www.facebook.com/canterburymonopoly. Or write to **Canterbury Monopoly, Winning Moves UK, 7 Praed Street, London W2 1NJ.**



ROLL OF THE DICE: Board-maker Winning Moves UK wants the public to vote for which locations are in the game



Number of countries Monopoly is played in



Number of languages it's been translated into



Number of days the longest game lasted



Number of red hotels made since 1935



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Jamie fired up to make it big

Picture: BBC



He's performed for millions on The Voice, duetted with Kylie and is determined to make music his life, but as **Sarah Linney** finds out, Medway musician Jamie Johnson couldn't be more down to earth...

HE SPENT last weekend performing in front of millions of people in the final of BBC TV talent show The Voice; duetting with Kylie Minogue.

But though his star may be very much in the ascendant, Medway musician Jamie Johnson couldn't be more down to earth.

And this week we caught up with the star-in-the-making just hours after he became the first of the four finalists to leave the TV show following last Saturday night's showdown.

He lost out, ultimately, to Jermain Jackman who won the public vote and secured himself a lucrative record deal.

Don't, however, rule out the Gillingham youngster becoming the latest in a long line of talent show runners-up who go on to eclipse the eventual winners.

Despite having spent the last three months being coached by celebrities – viewers on Saturday saw him walk out on stage at the O2 Arena to perform in front of Justin Timberlake – and appearing on the show every Saturday night, there isn't a hint of arrogance about the 20-year-old.

Upbeat, cheerful and friendly, he talks instead about how he missed his mum's pies and how the people he looks up to most in the world are his parents and grandparents.

"I am feeling really good, really happy," said Mr Johnson, who lives in Gillingham with his mum Sharla, a district nurse, his dad Matt, who owns window company RM Contract Services, and sister Jessica.

"It was just so great to make it to the final, and to have worked with Kylie and sung with her twice... it was amazing. It's been the



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after final of The Voice

best experience of my life."

The former Skinner Street Primary School and New Brompton College pupil had already recorded an album of his own music, selling all 1,000 copies, when he auditioned for the show.

He had started a music practice course at MidKent College but dropped out to go gigging full time.

"I didn't enjoy it," he admits, "I wanted to be out in the real world."

"I did gigs in pubs where no-one wanted to listen for about a year and a half, right up until The Voice started in January."

"I wasn't really making enough to live off, but it was something I enjoyed. My mum and dad were supporting me and weren't asking me for rent."

"It was just so great to make it to the final, and to have worked with Kylie and sung with her twice... it was amazing. It's the best experience"

Jamie Johnson,

On not winning The Voice

"That's why I would like to be able to pay their mortgage off one day."

Two of his friends, Joseph Apostol and Moni Tivony, were contestants on the 2013 series and convinced him to audition.

"I wasn't sure about it. I was really nervous about what people would think of me," Mr Johnson recalled.

"I never saw myself getting through the audition. But I just went for it."

After beating almost 40,000 people to get through the producers' audition, he was put through to the blind auditions in front of judges Kylie Minogue, will.i.am, Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson.

There he had to convince them to hit the big red button and spin their chairs around – thus securing his place in the next round.

All the judges, except will.i.am, turned round during his performance of Ne-Yo's So Sick. He opted to work with the former actress turned pop sensation, Kylie Minogue.

"It was a gut feeling to go with Kylie. But it's been an amazing decision. I don't think any of the others would have been able to help me as much as she has," he said.

"She is just brilliant. How she is on TV is genuinely what she is like in real life. She's really genuine, really down to Earth."

"When I was singing she said, feel the lyrics, make sure you are think-

ing about what you are singing. That was one of the main things for me."

"You do get quite competitive, not with each other, but with yourself. You want to try as much as you can."

And he has nothing but praise for the three other judges, too.

"They are all lovely," Jamie said.

"Will.i.am has so many brilliant ideas, it seems as if he has a lot on his mind all the time. Tom's a legend, and I got on really well with Ricky. We always used to joke around and have a laugh together, and then when we were on TV we were serious."

"Every time I'm on stage I get nervous, and the main thing that always used to go through my mind was – you are working with four of the biggest superstars in the world."

"It doesn't really hit you, and then you think, what am I doing? But although they are superstars they are normal people, they are human."

But he admits to having missed some of the comforts of home.

"I missed home cooking so much. I texted my mum last night and asked her if we could have shepherd's pie!" he admits.

And when I ask him who his influences have been, I expect him to name a big star or two, but instead he tells me something different.

"Working with Kylie and seeing

"My family have been a huge influence on me. My dad's always working really hard, trying to do well for us, and my mum has a heart of gold..."

Jamie Johnson,

On his biggest influences

how it all works has been great, but my family have been massive influences on me," Jamie said.

"My dad's always working really hard, trying to do well for us, and my mum has a heart of gold. My nan and grandad have always been people to look up to too."

The budding star is now hoping the publicity the show has given him will help him secure a record deal.

"I've got some producers who want to work with me, and hopefully I'll be doing some songwriting with people and some YouTube videos," he said.

"I am not going back to anything but music in my whole life, ever."

For more details see his website: www.jamiejohnsonmusic.com.

THE VOICE

LAST weekend's final brought the curtain down on the third series of The Voice on BBC1.

The show, seen by many to be the Beeb's attempt to win some of the audience addicted to the likes of the X Factor, hangs its hat on its innovative selection process.

Although vetted by producers first, the judges have to make their selection purely on the sound of the contestant's voice – only being able to see what the performer looks like if they press their big red button and commit to potentially mentoring them as one of 12 singers on their team.

This year the judges were Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs' frontman Ricky Wilson.

Contestants then go through a series of knock-out rounds in a bid to reach the final. The winner lands a record deal with Universal Republic and a £100,000 prize.

The show has consistently attracted between seven and ten million viewers each week, but it has come under fire for failing to discover a big star.

Whereas former X Factor contestants such as Leona Lewis, Little Mix, JLS and Olly Murs – not all of them winners – have gone on to enjoy chart success, the two previous winners sank without trace.

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S A L E

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Tracing the history of county's high office link to royal family

David McDine, author of the newly-published 'Unconquered – the Story of Kent and its Lieutenancy', reveals to KoS readers some of the little-known stories uncovered



through his research. He is a former journalist, Ministry of Defence chief information officer, Territorial Army colonel and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent.

AN extraordinary forgotten episode in our frontline county's eventful history occurred during the Armada crisis when Britain's fate hung in the balance.

I came upon it while researching the history of the Lieutenancy, the ancient office which from Tudor times was responsible for organising the defence of the county – both internal and external.

Although the Lieutenancy no longer has a defence role, the ancient office has evolved to protect it in other ways. Today it follows the example of the royal family in fostering a spirit of community and co-operation, encouraging voluntary service and taking a close inter-

est in business, industrial and social life, celebrating all that is good about the county.

Former Lord Lieutenant Allan Willett wanted Kent to be the first to publish the in-depth story of its Lieutenancy and so I set to work to trace the dramatic 500-year story.

And what an extraordinary history we have.

Back in 1588 during the Armada crisis the Lieutenancy assembled 4,000 men, only 500 of whom were trained part-time soldiers, at Northbourne, near Deal.

Beacons flared to warn of the Spaniards' approach and the Kentish force made a show of strength as the Armada passed up the Channel.



CEREMONY: The current Lord Lieutenant, Viscount De L'Isle, accompanying the Count and Countess of Wessex during their visit to Tunbridge Wells

The would-be invaders had been attacked by fireships, battered by gales and routed; but no-one ashore was aware they were a beaten force.

So Sir Thomas Scott, the Deputy Lieutenant commanding the Northbourne camp, sent Thomas Nevynson to try to discover what was happening at sea.

Nevynson, the force's intelligence officer, rode to Margate where he found

Sir Francis Drake himself aboard his flagship Revenge, just returned from chasing the defeated Spaniards up the North Sea.

Drake gave Nevynson the sensational news and the Kent Lieutenancy immediately reported it to Queen Elizabeth I at Tilbury.

So when the Virgin Queen made her famous defiant speech about having 'the body of a weak and feeble woman... but the heart and stomach of a king' she already knew of the Armada's defeat.

Kent has had more than 30 Lord Lieutenants over the centuries. The most notorious was Henry Brooke, 11th Lord Cobham, said to have been 'but one degree from a fool'.

He was lucky not to lose his head and ended up in the Tower of London for plotting against James I, the monarch he was supposed to represent in the county.

The Lieutenancy of old carried out many administrative roles since devolved to county and local councils.

In the early 17th century, Lord Wotton was required to lead a campaign to plant mulberry trees around Maidstone to encourage the silk industry 'to set the common people on work to prevent them from idleness – the mother of all vices'.

During the Civil War counties like Kent that fell under parliamentary control were now gov-

erned by committees of local gentry, notably Deputy Lieutenants.

But at the Restoration and the return of Charles II to Dover, the Earl of Winchelsea, as it was then spelt – known for good reason as 'the amorous peer', as he fathered 27 legitimate children and reputedly many others out of wedlock – was reappointed Lord Lieutenant.

Although he was later sacked for religious reasons, he went to the rescue of James II who was held prisoner by 'rude Kentish fishermen' at Faversham when attempting to flee during the Glorious Revolution.

Eighteenth century Lord Lieutenants included three generations of the Sackville family – the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Dukes of Dorset. The Sackvilles were the greatest of the early patrons of cricket and the 1st Duke maintained his own 'cricketing place' at his seat at Knole, Sevenoaks.

During the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, Kent again became an armed camp. The Lieutenancy was not only responsible for organising the militia and volunteers but was also heavily involved in detailed logistical planning – even down to controlling the output of bakers in the Channel ports.

In 1799, the then Lord Lieutenant, Lord Romney, entertained more than 5,000 volunteers from all over the county to a magnificent dinner at his own expense following a royal review at his Mote Park seat in Maidstone.

A later Lord Lieutenant, Lord Sydney, was lampooned in the satirical magazine Punch for being sniffy about granting volunteer commissions to men in 'trade'.

In Chatham, he withheld a commission from the keeper of the

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LORD LIEUTENANTS: PAST AND PRESENT



LORD COBHAM: First permanent Lord Lieutenant

HER Majesty's Lord Lieutenants are the representatives of the crown for each county in the UK.

In Tudor times they and their deputies exercised enormous power, organising the defence of their counties and performing local government and justice functions that have devolved to other bodies.

Today Kent's Lord Lieutenant is the Viscount De L'Isle, of Penshurst Place, and where once his predecessors organised our armed forces, nowadays he and his 70 deputies encourage armies of community volunteers.

The unpaid, non-political Lieutenancy's modern aims are to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise

excellence and promote service to others.

Deputies are chosen for the positive contribution they have made – and continue to make – to the county and nation. They perform more than 500 public duties a year paying all their own expenses.

They include big band leader Jools Holland, former Kent Scout Commissioner Kelvin Holford, former headteacher Rosalind McCarthy, brewery chief executive Jonathan Neame and farmer George Jessel.

Duties include looking after members of the Royal Family when they visit the county, presenting honours and awards and taking part in citizenship ceremonies.



SPANISH: Lighting the Armada beacons

garrison canteen, in Sheerness he objected to a solicitor, and in Gillingham to a licensed victualler.

The volunteers of the day were, to begin with, 'a raw unvarnished set of men'. It was reported "the ludicrous attempt they made at soldierly bearing rendered their appearance extremely comical". An early Dad's Army, perhaps?

During the 19th century it became clear that defence needed to be organised on a national basis, and an 1871 Act withdrew command of the militia from Lord Lieutenants.

However, right up until today the Lieutenancy has retained close links with the Armed Forces – and especially with the volunteer reserves and cadets.

Lord De L'Isle, the current Lord Lieutenant, has been honorary colonel of both the territorial infantry battalion and Kent Army Cadet Force and many of his deputies have

significant military service.

During the First World War, Kent's Lord Lieutenant, the 4th Marquess Camden, saw active service in Gallipoli and in the Second World War he and his wife went to Tonbridge railway station to welcome troops returning from Dunkirk – Lady Camden even went shopping for them.

He and his Vice Lord Lieutenant and successor, Lord Cornwallis, personally led the campaign to raise enough money for the county's own Spitfires.

They were so successful that enough was raised to pay for more aircraft and Kent became the first county to have a squadron named after it: Invicta.

Cornwallis was a remarkable man. He won the Military Cross for bravery in the Great War, captained Kent's County Cricket team and was chairman of Kent County Council before becoming Lord Lieutenant.

He was succeeded by Lord Astor of Hever, who appointed the county's

first women Deputy Lieutenants.

Lord Kingsdown, Governor of the Bank of England followed him, serving for almost 20 years during which he escorted the Queen and other members of the royal family on all the major occasions from the naming of the QEII Bridge to the opening of the Channel Tunnel.

He retired in 2002 and was succeeded by self-made businessman Allan Willett, who modernised the Lieutenancy in line with the changed monarchy to make it fit for purpose in the 21st century.

Along the way he earned the unofficial title, taken from Gilbert and Sullivan, of 'the very model of a modern Lord Lieutenant'.

The modernised Kent Lieutenancy has become a bench mark for good practice for all other counties.

Lord De L'Isle was appointed to succeed him in 2011 and has continued to lead an active Lieutenancy, especially in supporting the county's many thousands of commu-

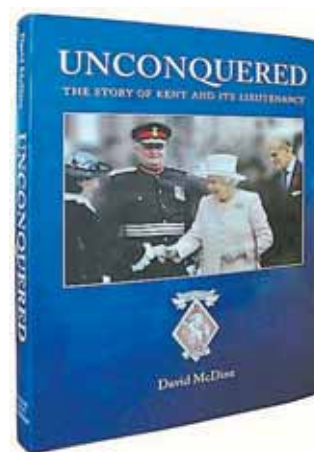
nity volunteers.

Praising them, he said: "Across the county and in Medway we are blessed with an army of volunteers who tirelessly work supporting others and particularly assisting our youth, the seed corn of tomorrow's Kent."

The work of today's Lieutenancy is a far cry from marshalling men on the cliff-tops to see off the Armada, planting mulberry trees to kick-start the silk industry, or supervising bakeries in case of an invasion by the French.

It is still playing a significant part in the lives of the people of the county, keeping alive the indomitable spirit of Kent that has carried its people through thick and thin.

■ **Unconquered** is funded by The Allan Willett Foundation and any profits will go to mainly Kentish and medical causes. The 276-page book, fully illustrated in colour, is priced at £35 and is available from sales@headley.co.uk; Canterbury Cathedral Shop; or The Allan Wil-



lett Foundation, Cumberland Cottage, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 8BX (Call: 01227 738800; e-mail: jan@allanwillett.org).

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300 yards towards Herne Bay from the MacDonald's roundabout on the Old Thanet Way

The old village phone box that's not just bright red but well read

FOR many residents, Olive Odell is known as the village librarian. But don't for one moment think she works in a typical library.

For the past two years she has been in charge of one of the smallest community libraries in the country, housed inside an old red K6 phone box in East Langdon, near Dover.

Like Doctor Who's Tardis, it looks small on the outside but in fact is now home to hundreds of books.

"It had the phone taken out of it and had laid empty for quite a few years," said Mrs Odell.

"And then the local parish council got to know that you could buy them and we purchased it for £1."

With so many being dismantled in an age when mobile phones have replaced the iconic phone box on street corners, many communities have opted to keep the housing of the kiosks and find alternative uses for them.

Thanks to BT's Adopt A Kiosk campaign, where they can be bought for just £1, many communities have found creative ways to keep and use their beloved phone boxes.

From vegetable shops to giant floral displays covered in hanging baskets, the units are being repurposed to great effect.

This small but perfectly formed library is popular with lenders and allows one village near Dover to find a new use for one of its former phone boxes, writes **Caroline Read**



Picture: ADY KERRY

REPURPOSED: East Langdon village librarian Olive Odell runs the service

Located just off the Dover to Deal road, the area attracts a number of tourists and Mrs Odell has even seen people having their photograph taken outside the box. Those staying at the nearby Martin Mill campsite also use it for their holiday reading.

The library is seasonal, but retired Mrs Odell has just opened it for the summer and she'll check it almost every day, making sure it's tidy and collecting the money, until it closes again for the winter. All profits go back into the parish.

"Each year I have to close it about November time because some of the little windows are a bit dodgy now and the rain tends to get in a bit."

"I just can't believe the books that are donated. People obviously read a paperback just once. They cost about £6 now to buy in the shops, so I think this is why it's taken off."

With a special section for children and shelves offering something for everyone, Mrs Odell is delighted the library has been so well received and that it's been treated with such respect by her fellow villagers.

"We don't want the phone boxes to disappear. They're part of our heritage. We understand it wasn't being used enough as a phone, but we didn't want to lose it altogether," she said.

The one in East Langdon is only two doors away from Mrs Odell's home on The Street, so when she suggested a library the villagers looked to her to run it.

"I'd seen one up north somewhere that somebody had turned into a library, so I thought 'Here we go, we can do this'."

The first thing the phone box needed was a good scrub, but Mrs Odell soon got it shining again and had it repainted. Metal shelving was fitted and it now provides room for an estimated 200 books.

"Everyone has been so supportive and so generous with their books," she said. "It's been a bit of a trial for the first two years just to see how it goes, but it's proved popular."

"I have an honesty box in there and at the moment people can just borrow a book and leave a donation, but I think I will have to start charging a little this year."

It's not just villagers who benefit.

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FRESH VIBE: The music hall aims to help aspiring local musicians as well as attract bands such as Gang, lower left. Top, the bar is on the upper floor.

The sound of tradition and a keen eye on the future

The name might be old-time, but Ramsgate Music Hall is pulling in some of the sharpest young talent around.
By **Dave Mairs**.

RAMSGATE Music Hall... the name sounds old-time, variety, vaudeville, The Good Old Days even (and if you remember that, we really are talking a leap of faith). But here is somewhere that could be very good news indeed for Kent's young talent and those who simply love their music. It was Wednesday, October 30, last year that London indie band Allo Darlin' ripped into their first chords to become the first group to play the music hall. They were

followed by The Wave Pictures, Blouse and Cate Le Bon, among others, while it almost goes without saying that more will follow and, as the venue's reputation grows, so will the status of those playing. Not, however, that pulling in the biggest names is what the music hall is all about. For as much as providing east Kent with a venue unique to the area, it is hoped that local emerging talent will have somewhere to perform and indeed some young people will be tempted into the world of

musicianship for the first time. The notion of Ramsgate Music Hall was given life by three friends returning from a festival in Somerset and a conversation along the lines of 'Wouldn't it be a great idea to open our own venue so we wouldn't have to travel miles to see great bands'. They were not the first to have such thoughts and assuredly won't be the last, but on this occasion the big talk was leavened with no small amount of realism.

Continued on page 35 »

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« Continued from page 31

All had been involved in music throughout their lives and all had the ambition to make this idea work.

Julian Bigg is a graphic designer by trade whose work has included album covers, while he also helped develop Cargo in Shoreditch, a club that became highly respected and caught the zeitgeist as the area moved from somewhere to be avoided to one desired by the beautiful people. It is an experience that could serve him well in the Ramsgate Music Hall project.

With Bigg are Tim Baines, a former Manchester-based producer

“Boutique is not a word I like, but the size of this place and its acoustics are really important”

and radio plugger (someone whose job is to get acts played over the airwaves) and Robin Hyman, a Thanet entrepreneur and music fan.

“We’re trying to do something new,” said Bigg. “Boutique is not a word I like, but the small size of this place and its acoustics are really important.”

“It’s about the whole experience for band and crowd alike. We’ve been told we’re unique – Blouse and their people were blown away by how we looked after the band.

“As for the actual building, we gutted it. There’s a really nice green



SMALL BUT PERFECTLY FORMED: Ramsgate Music Hall partners Julian Bigg (left), Tim Baines and Robin Hyman have high hopes for the venue's future

room with toilets, for example, and we’ve built somewhere nice where bands will want to come. We’re small, but we’re not toilet circuit.”

The toilet circuit, for those who might not be aware, features those venues so poorly endowed with facilities that band members have to get changed in the WC.

Not the case at Ramsgate Music Hall, oh no, even though it has a capacity of just 120 for live-music

events and nearer 150 for DJ-based club nights.

There can’t be many who don’t appreciate that the music scene in Kent has improved markedly over the past decade or so, albeit there is still no stand-out venue to attract the very biggest acts. So what does Ramsgate Music Hall offer that any number of smaller sites, even pubs, don’t?

“From this end, there’s nowhere in

Kent before you get to The Forum in Tunbridge Wells that you could call a proper music venue, and after that it’s London or Brighton,” said Bigg.

Might some of the growing number of places in the county that do host live music object to that view?

“I agree, but they are not attracting the bands you would want to see. Acoustically, these places don’t sound great. We’re not a pub

– we’re a small, dedicated music venue bringing in bands that don’t come to Kent.

“The county doesn’t have many like that unless you go to pubs – which can be good, but you can also get pub rock...”

“We do a real spectrum of stuff. There’s things you’ll hear on [BBC Radio] 6 Music – we’re about

Continued on page 36 »

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musically-savvy kids who would want to go to cutting-edge gigs.

"So far we've had a really broad spectrum of people in the audience, any age from 65 to 15. Kids can come in with their parents – to be honest, it's almost a nonsense putting an age on it.

"We don't want to be perceived as an elitist venue – a lot of the people who come in are big festival-goers, but there are others who do their music totally differently."

So far, so good, it would seem and the fact that bands have travelled from as far as Birmingham and Manchester to play an as yet

“Acoustically, it's wonderful – one engineer said we had potentially the best-acoustics small venue in the country”

little-known small-town venue speaks volumes for what could be happening here.

Nevertheless, however good the idea, such things don't grow from nothing. Blood, sweat and tears are the standard ingredients, not to mention a pot of money.

"The place was an absolute state when we got it at auction," said Bigg. "It used to be Jesters comedy club and, before that, it had a dark past as a bar in a number of guises. We were told by one wise old local that if there had been a robbery locally the police would come here and whoever



THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW: The music hall has been gutted and now boasts top-class small-venue acoustics

wasn't sat at the bar was the likely culprit."

The trio's winning bid was £67,000, but they have "put in just over £300,000" thus far, not a surprising amount when you consider the work that was needed.

"The place was gutted – the tiles on the roof and one side of the walls are the only original bits left from what we bought.

"We've got a German d&b sound system set up by the same engineer who fitted out The Lexington in London. The building work was carried out by a small team led by Tim. Acoustically, it's a wonderful

thing – Cate Le Bon's sound engineer said we had potentially the best-acoustics small venue in the country."

Funding it all was not a cakewalk – "the banks wouldn't lend us a penny" – but £40,000 was raised through the Regional Growth Fund, a large chunk from each partner and the rest privately.

The challenge now is to both raise awareness and ensure a viable income.

"We spent so much time trying to get it right before getting the word out," said Bigg. "But we're already getting people from Dover,

Folkestone, Dartford, London... even one from Nottingham.

"If we get 100 for a gig we're fine and if we can build a beautiful venue

“We wanted to put Ramsgate in the name – it's about Ramsgate. The 'music hall' is a name that won't date.”

that pays its way we're happy – it does have to be self-sufficient. We're going to start opening as a bar on

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays – bar nights will help pay the way – but we've got a busy schedule in April and May and the music will always have priority."

Bigg moved to Thanet from Greenwich and his admiration for his adopted home is reflected in that slightly quaint name for the venue.

"I came down to get away and relocate and just fell in love with the place.

"Broadstairs is the town that will never change, Margate has deep problems and, though Ramsgate still has some of those, things are changing here. There's a nucleus of really interesting people who are doing brilliant things.

"We wanted to put Ramsgate in the name – it's about Ramsgate. The 'music hall' is kind of vaudeville, but it's a name that won't date."

The ambition is to "create a hub" and that means more than pulling in the bigger names on the circuit – it's also about inspiring local talent, some of it not even realised by those who have it.

"We want to have rehearsal space but have yet to work out how to do it. This can be somewhere kids who don't have instruments can come and play – there can be workshops for drums, guitar and so on.

"And if one day we can sit back as grandparents and watch talented bands and musicians who developed their skills here, then we will have succeeded in what we're doing."

■ Ramsgate Music Hall is in the town's Turner Street. For more on the venue and the bands that are scheduled to appear, visit www.ramsgatemusichall.com.

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KENT LIFE

Meet the Kumar intent on altering high-street tastes

The revolution in Indian dining is continuing apace, as **Dave Mairs** discovered

VISIT Flavours By Kumar, the new Indian restaurant in Ramsgate, and chances are, if you're an east Kent curry aficionado, you'll recognize the man running the show.

He is Anil Kumar, the 36-year-old culinary wizard who for four years was head chef at The Ambrette in Margate, the restaurant that purposely, and with no little fanfare, set out to change the face of Indian dining in Thanet.

The idea was to move away from the idea of 'an Indian' being no more than a curry wolfed down after six or seven pints on a Saturday night, and instead present something a little more refined.

This was Indian haute cuisine brought to Margate.

The concept took a while to catch on with the locals, but once it did, there was no stopping it.

The awards flowed – for example, it was named best Indian restaurant in Britain by Morrisons magazine – and, more importantly, word of mouth spread the news that here was something special.

And now the man whose flair was such an integral part of The Ambrette is going it alone.

"I never thought I would leave," said Kumar.

So why did he?

"I was trying to invest in property, but it didn't go through, so the agent started looking for something else.

"I have a wife and young son and wanted a restoration property, but the agent came back and said to me the Patogh [a Persian restaurant] was on the market, you're a qualified chef and have worked in many places – why don't you look at that?

"So I had a meeting and something came into my heart..."

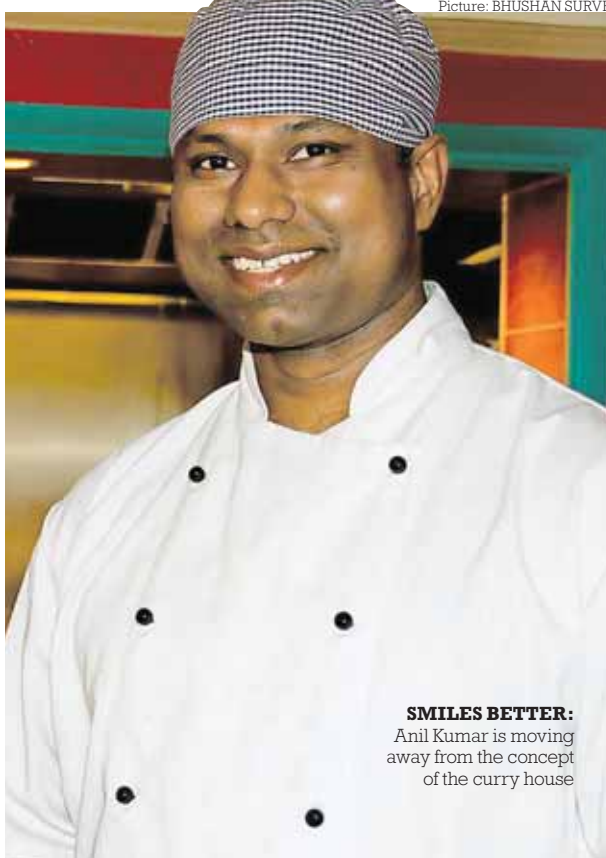
With the heart convinced, it just needed the bank to buy into the dream and so with a remortgaging of his house and a personal loan Kumar was on his way – both out of The Ambrette and into a future in which he would be master of his own destiny.

"All my life I had been working hard. So I thought 'Why not?'"

And on December 6 last year, Flavours By Kumar opened its doors to a Thanet public increasingly well served by an impressive range of quality restaurants.

The name is not just some kind of self-homage. Rather, Kumar wanted to make clear to potential customers what he was trying to do.

"I wanted to give it an Indian name, but this wasn't for people who just wanted to go to a curry



Picture: BHUSHAN SURVE

SMILES BETTER:

Anil Kumar is moving away from the concept of the curry house

house – many Indians are not genuine Indian restaurants," he said. "And Kumar is a very, very Indian name."

Those who are expecting a cloned menu from The Ambrette will be surprised.

In truth, some of the dishes are not very far removed from those you might be served in a more 'traditional Indian' restaurant.

“I wanted to give it an Indian name, but this wasn't for people who just wanted to go to a curry house”

For example, Kashmiri lamb rogan josh and chicken shahi korma both feature, although the chargrilled brochette of venison with pickling sauce on the specials board during my visit alluded to loftier aims.

"It's not only modern cuisine like The Ambrette," said Kumar. "Everybody has to survive in the

market. I want to be in between The Ambrette and the more traditional.

"It's a very small menu – just six mains plus the special – but they're all different.

"Other restaurants might make thousands of dishes that all taste the same. I like to make the best dishes and best sauces I can.

"Every few months I can make different dishes. I don't want to spread myself everywhere, but I listen to the customers and I will be introducing three extra dishes to increase choice."

As Kumar alludes to, an Indian restaurant is not a high-street rarity, so how does he make his stand out from the rest of a bunch he clearly does not rate too highly?

"Everything with a sauce is now called a curry – we can't run away from that," he said.

"But we use things that are local. So there might be pheasant tikka or venison or lamb shank – we use local produce with exotic spices.

"Some dishes are very traditional and some very modern – all are things that show my skill."

And Kumar's skill has clearly

been built in the most intense of environments.

After three years at catering college – he comes from Patna, the capital of Bihar state in eastern India – he started out as a banqueting chef and at some events would be involved in providing food for up to 5,000 people.

While at the Taj Gateway in Bangalore, he would often tackle guest lists of 2,000 or so.

He has prepared a "very high-profile" south Indian breakfast for Tony Blair and associated delegates – "I worked the whole night and didn't sleep before working the whole of the next day as well... this is the hotel industry".

"If there are 1,000 people, I can see with one look of the eye how many chickens we need, how much rice we need, and so on," he said.

There's a pedigree to Kumar's

“Some dishes are very traditional and some very modern – all are things that show my skill”

experience that should not go unnoticed by Thanet diners.

"I was looking at a magazine in London," he said.

"There was an article on the top three Indian restaurants outside London. One was Nina in Dubai, where I have worked, and another was Cinnamon Club in London, where I have worked. There was also one in New York, where I haven't worked. I joked that I would have to go there next."

It was Cinnamon Club that showed him "what the fun of this work is".

"I would start at 5.30 in the evening and look around at the end to see it was 11 o'clock – you wouldn't know where the five or six hours had gone.

"And they would always use the very best of everything."

Today, at Flavours By Kumar, with the 46-cover restaurant still in its early days and the main man involved in pretty much everything, the hours are longer than ever.

He often won't get to bed before 3am, with the morning alarm set for 7.30am.

As he might say himself: this is the restaurant industry.

■ Flavours By Kumar
2 Effingham Street,
Ramsgate CT11 9AT
(phone 01843 852631)

The heat is on to cash in on explosion of visitors but it has to be turned up

Samphire

Location: Whitstable

By Chris Thomson

AT AROUND this time of year, Whitstable ceases to be a functioning, peaceful seaside town and instead slips into its spring/summer outfit.

And with it come hordes of visitors each and every weekend.

Every Saturday and Sunday morning sees traffic stretch down the hill that leads into the pretty town and any clear piece of pavement becomes a potential parking space.

All of which means a bumper time for traders – and especially those in the restaurant trade. Because a decent chunk of those visiting crowds are the Down From Londons. And city folk tend to come with money burning a hole in their back pockets.

Which means that restaurateurs need to have their act together.

Samphire sits two doors along

from the pink-fronted Wheeler's Oyster Bar on the high street and will, surely, be hoping to be one of those cashing in – especially given its prominent location.

Certainly it is an enticing prospect. The décor is alluring; wooden tables, bits of art and framed contributions and notes singing its praises line the walls. Your name is chalked on to the table you've reserved, which manages to make you feel rather special, while the lighting is subtle and cosy. In short, it is warm and welcoming, the key ingredients of any restaurant wanting to set a good first impression.

The service itself is friendly, albeit rather sluggish, the mood and atmosphere excellent.

You can, however, hear the word 'but' approaching with undue haste from afar, can't you?

Because Samphire is a classic case



of 'close but no cigar'. And for one simple reason that seems so basic it seems crazy it fell flat as a result: the food wasn't hot enough.

It wasn't that it wasn't cooked well – some of it oozed flavour – but that it just felt like it had probably waited on a side for five minutes before it was brought through, the consequence being that the very first sensation

was 'Oh, that's not hot enough'.

It wasn't just my main dish, either, but the starters, too – and those of my dining partner.

Now, you never want to be burning your tongue on a prepared meal, but you do at least want to feel it's just gone from pan to plate.

The result was that it overshadowed the quality of the food to a certain

extent, which was a real shame, especially as the menu had a nice balance of fish, meat and vegetarian options, all of which were based on a key local ingredient.

The Stour Valley pigeon with star anise and braised spring onion was beautifully presented and very tasty, while the rump of Monkshill lamb comprised fine fat chunks of tender, moist meat offset by gratin potatoes and wild garlic pesto.

Coupled with the atmosphere, it could have been great.

It wasn't helped by slow service, too – so tardy, in fact, that we skipped dessert as we feared the whole process could take an age.

But let's not dwell on the negatives. For a little over £66, which included a nice Pinot Grigio, it was good value and high quality. Go just that little bit further – and that basically boils down to speeding up the service and delivery of food – and all those tourists they crave will be queuing up for the chance to share the experience.

■ Samphire
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Common sense is needed on houses

WHILE not a big fan of development for the sake of development, the fact the occasional nesting nightingale sent the previous plans for the Lodge Hill development [KoS, 06/04/14] crashing down is, in this day and age, just plain ridiculous.

We need to get real here. We have a housing shortage, therefore we need to build more houses. And they have to go somewhere.

Medway is a perfect place for that sort of development, so it seems ridiculous that birds could cause it such problems.

Here is hoping common sense prevails this time around.

K Lawton, Sittingbourne

Quality and not quantity is goal

IMPLYING that the conservation view is just about nightingales is very simplistic.

The birds are just the most visible (and audible) indicator that the environment in the area of Lodge Hill is in excellent condition.

Regardless of whether the nightingales are only there in the summer, they are showing that the habitat has matured over hundreds of years and could not be re-created "over the river in Essex", unless, of course, the developer is prepared to wait a few centuries.

Developers and politicians think in the short term, whether for short-term gain or meeting political targets. The conservation bodies are taking the longer term; they may be "unelected", but they probably have more members than most political parties do.

Decisions should not just be about quantity – how many houses can we squeeze in, how many jobs for a few years – but about quality. Is this area going to be worth living in for future generations?

The conservation bodies are right to protest about damage to the environment – our life-support system. That's why so many people join them.

They wouldn't be needed if our elected political representatives could be relied on to make the right decisions.

Brian Nobbs, Sevenoaks

So where will the concrete end?

I SEE nothing in the Lodge Hill plans for a new hospital to cater for the

LETTER OF THE WEEK



How about tackling planning laws first?

MR Hudson-Gool (KoS Letters 30/03/14) seems to think planning decisions made by district councils are bad decisions because they are taken at a level that is too far from local people.

And by a massive leap of faith he argues a decision taken in Brussels will be worse than a decision taken by a local body.

Unfortunately, Mr Hudson-Gool does not help his case by giving as an example Tunbridge Wells Borough Council "overruling" a "planning refusal" by Southborough Town Council.

It is a long-established principle in British planning law that town and parish councils can, and do, comment on planning applications, but local planning authorities, like Tunbridge Wells, make the final decisions.

If these decisions are taken at the wrong level, then that is the fault of politicians at Westminster, not by anyone in Brussels.

Recently, however, the present Conservative-led UK government has tied the hands of local planning authorities by bringing in the National Planning Policy Framework, which dictates that planning authorities must approve applications except in the most exceptional circumstances.

Mr Hudson-Gool may choose the UK Isolationist Party above all others but, if he really wants to see better planning decisions being made, he should tackle the current British government's dictatorial planning policies first.

Mike Eddy,

Kent County Councillor (Labour) for Deal and Walmer

thousands of people that the scheme would bring to Medway.

How on earth is Medway Maritime Hospital going to cope with another 20,000 people that 5,000 more houses will bring to this already built-up area of Kent?

And that's to say nothing of the extra congestion on the roads in and out of the peninsula, which can be seen in Bells Lane, Hoo, after all the extra houses that are continuing to be built there.

It seems to me that our council planners are only after the extra council tax that these homes will bring and will worry about the

infrastructure some time never, until we are covered in concrete

Barbara Thorndycraft, via email

Riders in need of more cycle lanes

I HAVE to share the views of your correspondent last weekend who wrote about the cost of potholes on our roads and the cost to the NHS of cyclists falling off.

I am not a regular cyclist but bought one recently so as to add less pollution to the atmosphere and to cut down on traffic.

But there are two major problems.

The first is the state of the roads. Some are death traps with deep craters.

The second is that motorists continue to drive so dangerously around cyclists. They do not seem to appreciate that if there is a pothole up ahead, the cyclist will also need to steer around it.

It is a recipe for disaster.

There should be far more cycle lanes, if only to ensure cyclists can safely navigate around potholes and not fall in them, or be hit by cars from behind.

Laura Potter, Deal

Gay cheerleading is not necessary

SHAZ Riley in last week's article on gay marriage and the LGBT scene in Kent is absolutely right.

There is no need for parades and events to cheerlead being gay. The vast majority of people in this county accept it. They may not necessarily like it, but they accept it.

Too often organisers of these events suggest homophobia is behind a lack of interest from local communities in LGBT events, when, in reality, it is that no one sees the point in them.

If you are gay, then that's fine. If you are straight, then that's fine. If you're neither – well, that's fine, too. Just don't feel that the rest of the community should care either way any more.

Harriet Wilson, Tunbridge Wells

Be gentle to your unwanted guests

SPRING is here, and that means wild animals will be searching out safe, warm, dry places to nest and raise their young.

Inevitably, this means that some will come a little closer to people than they might like.

There is no need to panic and call in pest-controllers. There are simple measures that can be taken to encourage unwanted guests to leave without harming them.

And it is best to do this as soon as they are seen to be taking an interest in attics or garages, rather than waiting until there are babies to evacuate, too.

Animal Aid has a series of free information sheets that give useful tips on deterring birds, squirrels, rodents and foxes. You can order these from info@animalaid.org.uk or by calling 01732 364546.

Kate Fowler,

Animal Aid, Tonbridge

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Leeds Castle

by **Ivor Dennis**
from Gillingham

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Girlings wins approval from Headway and joins panel

GIRLINGS Personal Injury Claims has been accepted on to the 2014 list of approved solicitors for Headway, a leading brain-injury charity.

Headway provides information, support and services to people affected by brain injury, including their family and carers.

Jonathan Pidduck, managing director of Girlings Personal Injury Claims, said: "Headway is such an

important charity. We are very pleased to have been invited to join the Headway Panel.

"We have a number of clients who have suffered brain injuries as a result of accidents and are doing all we can to obtain for them the compensation that they deserve."

In addition to acting in relation to brain-injury claims, Girlings also has a Specialist Medical Negligence

Department, which is one of the largest in east Kent.

The company is also possibly the only group of solicitors in the country that specialises in acting for clients whose hypermobility syndrome has been triggered by, or exacerbated by, an accident.

For advice on accidents at work, road-traffic accidents, slips and trips, medical negligence *etc*, phone your local Kent no-win-no-fee



specialists on 0845 2221999 for a free informal chat.

Or, alternatively, you can visit www.girlingspersonalinjury.co.uk for further information.

The Velo House: great news for cyclists



A FAMILIAR landmark in Tunbridge Wells has been turned from a banking centre to biking haven.

Olly Stevens, 39, bought the old National Westminster Bank building in St John's Road. He said: "We are opening a café for cyclists combined with a bike shop and workshop.

"The café culture has already arrived in the town, but we want The Velo House to offer something extra – a place where cyclists can meet up over all-day brunch, chat and get

their bikes sorted out at the same time."

The former Skinners' School pupil, who will be running the business with his wife Sophie, said: "We brought the idea from Australia, where we lived for three years, but it has already taken off in London.

"As a cyclist myself, I know what they're looking for, and hopefully the café will also attract local people, too."

The building, which dates from

1929, still retained many of its original features when he moved in.

"Some of the walls are a foot thick," said Mr Stevens.

"I opened my first bank account in this building when I started university... and also took out my first overdraft here!" he joked.

With bicycle theft a problem, the café will offer safe lock-up parking in its adjoining car park plus CCTV cameras and screens.

The Velo House opens on April 12.

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Free courses at college

NORTH West Kent College is offering free courses for adults to help give the local community a little step up in life.

The courses are open to anyone aged 19 and over who is a UK or EU citizen.

Members of the public can benefit from a whole range of short courses, which will run at the Dartford or Gravesend campus.

The courses are all hands-on and practical – designed to provide more knowledge about everyday things in computing, health, sport, beauty, job-seeking skills, finances, DIY, hairdressing and performing arts.

The courses are completely free with no strings attached, due to funding from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

They are available for a limited time between April and June 2014 and will run during the daytime, evenings or weekends and be between one and eight hours long.

Chris Lydon, Director of Sport and Leisure at NWKC and head of the Little Step Ups project, said: "We're very pleased to get this funding as it means that we can branch out and do something for the community."

"It's great to be able to learn a new skill and especially when it's being offered for free. We hope that the community will make the most of



this and come and learn something new."

NWKC ran a trial of this project with a free healthy-eating cookery workshop on March 1; it proved to be extremely popular, with people coming from Dartford, Bexley, Gravesend and Medway.

The Saturday-morning class thought the free workshop was a great idea and thoroughly enjoyed the experience:

"Instruction was clear and

understandable – an inspirational class!" said Sharon from Chatham.

"I enjoyed the pace, tutorial and, most of all, eating something that I had cooked!" said Lesley from Dartford.

Availability is on a first-come-first-served basis, so make sure you apply for a Little Step Up free course now.

To find out more and to book a course, visit www.nwkc.ac.uk or phone North West Kent College on 0800 074 1447.

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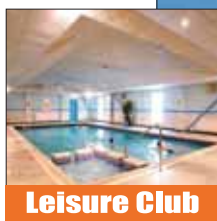
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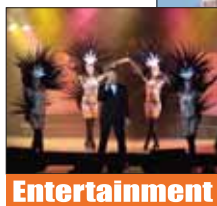
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"We would like to say a big thank you to GN Holidays and your team at the 60s Xmas party at Pakefield. We all had one of our best weekends for a long time. We are all looking forward to your March weekend. Once again thank you to GN Holidays, you have a great company!"
Mr Lineham
"Please pass on to the GN Holidays management and entertainment team that we again had a fabulous party break at Pakefield. The atmosphere was brilliant, so friendly, relaxing, and very entertaining. Thank you again for giving people such a happy time."
Gaye Fox

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9 January, 2015

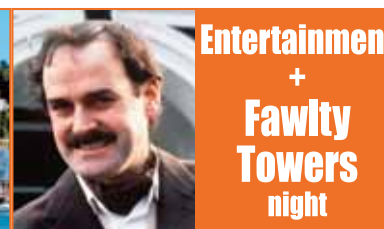
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By Steve Loader
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Brand Focus

Honda Civic Hatchback

Price:	£15,300
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	SEAT Leon

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Honda looks both ways before crossing ahead

Japanese car-maker shows how to be a green champion while still gathering kudos as a maker of small-volume elite sporting cars, writes **Steve Loader**

THERE'S a bit of schizophrenia in the motor industry at the moment. Keen to be seen to be doing their bit for the environment, car-makers have been more obsessed with toeing the green line than revving past the red one.

And no brand has probably been in two minds more than Honda, with its illustrious racing history and pioneering of viable hybrid and hydrogen-powered cars.

It's no wonder, then, that the brand seemed tight-lipped about whether it would develop a new Civic Type-R performance flagship.

The Type-R has been one of the great hot-hatchback sub-brands over several decades, but only now – two years on from the launch of the latest Civic – has the Japanese marque confirmed a new one is coming.

To the delight of the petrolhead community, it has also shown a concept for a belated follow-up to its late, lamented NSX supercar – axed in 2005.

It's something of an about-face for the brand after years of championing greener motoring but recognition, too, that sporting cars can still add lustre to a brand image that also enjoys mainstream/premium status and good customer satisfaction.

There's no doubt where the volumes

are, though, particularly in the company-car market, where Honda's refined and miserly 1.6-litre diesel is helping the brand to make inroads.

Following on from the marque's highly successful 2.2-litre diesel – a little too large for the Civic – its smaller 1.6 brother is a winner, also available in the new Civic Tourer and CR-V MPV, which both then benefit from big tax savings.

The Tourer itself is a shrewd move from Honda at a time when medium-size estates are in vogue, though the 'e-word' won't crop up much at dinner parties.

New-car one-upmanship there will be about buying a Touring, Sport Tourer or plain Tourer, but never an estate – a word that's just a bit too 'trade', dahhling.

For Honda, it also means plugging a gap in the range opened up by the Honda Accord Tourer growing so large that many previous customers looked elsewhere for something smaller.

So, for the first time, Honda has spun a load-lugger from its Civic family-hatchback star and executed

it with style without sacrificing flexibility. The credit for that has been earned locally; it was designed and developed in the UK and Europe to suit local tastes, and built at Honda's Swindon plant.

Priced from £20,265, it is reckoned to have the biggest boot volume in its class, yet aerodynamic lines and that impressive new 1.6-litre diesel engine deliver a road-tax-exempt 99g/km of CO₂ and official combined 74mpg option.

The lightweight 120PS (118bhp) engine also offers a lively 0-62mph in 10.1 seconds.

Apart from that sensational diesel, the car is also available with Honda's familiar and sporty 1.8 i-VTEC petrol unit offering 142PS (140bhp) 45.56mpg on the official combined cycle and CO₂ emissions from 149 g/km, incurring £140 a year in road tax.

Both engines are naturally also offered in the equivalent hatchback line-up, but the other big news is the 1.6 diesel's recent installation in front-wheel-drive versions of the fourth-generation CR-V SUV (sports utility vehicle).

This endows these models – very affordable from £22,800 – with 0-62mph in 11.2 seconds and nimbler handling while also offering 62.8mpg (official combined) thanks to the engine's lightness against the bigger 2.2-litre unit.

Other view...

the Petrolhead

I can forgive Honda banging on about hybrids and hydrogen if it remembers its F1 glory and continues making the Civic Type-R and NSX.

She says...

I like Honda – it seems to have an ability to be both an affordable yet posh brand, and one that's pretty reliable, too.

the Eco-warrior

I can see Honda needs to carry on making fast cars, but it also recognises that its real future is in being a green pioneer.



ONE BIG FAMILY: From main picture clockwise, Honda CR-V – now available with a 1.6-litre diesel; the Civic Hatchback – a UK-built success story; Honda's Civic Tourer; a glimpse into the future – Civic Type-R concept

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Used-car attractions driving back to pre-recession levels

BUYERS of second-hand cars have had a tough recession. Already forced by budget and circumstance to buy used, their problem was compounded by high prices and lack of choice.

Fact is, when fewer new cars are sold – as they were after the financial tsunami in 2008/09 – it means less stock to feed into the used market after a typical vehicle's initial three years' ownership.

The shortage of used cars for sale was then exacerbated by the previous government's ill-conceived scrappage scheme (March 2009 to March 2010), when owners of cars more than 10 years old were offered £2,000 by the Treasury and manufacturers to scrap their car and buy a new one.

Some 400,000 vehicles – often better than the old bangers that stayed on the road – were lost in this way when they could have soldiered on doing a service to those on a tight budget.

LEXUS



Lexus is alone in offering a hybrid premium hatchback. Its classy petrol-electric CT200h is zero road tax, with potential to average 60-70mpg.

Used appeal

Driving:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★

However, new-car sales recovered well last year due to greater consumer confidence and tempting promotional deals, which means many good useable second-hand cars have been filtering back into the market, though still commanding a premium.

But there might be bargains, say market-watchers at the trade 'bible' Glass's Guide, to be found with 'late plate' ex-fleet and

pre-registered dealer stock. These are often cars diverted to a comparatively buoyant UK market because continental European markets are still depressed.

The other good news on the used-car front is that better reliability, regulation and care is available to buyers in this market.

During the recession, franchised dealers had to rely on and improve used-car operations, with many

branded schemes upgraded to mirror the service given to new-car customers. This in turn encouraged customer-satisfaction polls, making brands and dealers keener to move up the rankings or simply maintain position.

All of this suggests that now is not a bad time to buy used as dealers become clogged with part-exchange stock from a bumper '14 new-registration plate change.

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Clio (1991-present)

THROUGH four generations, the Clio supermini has epitomised Gallic chic for Francophile car-buyers in this country. But second-hand demand is fuelled as much by the car's low running costs and practicality as by cheeky looks. There is also a good choice of engines, ranging from miserly petrol and diesel units right up to turbocharged hot-hatches – though younger buyers opting for the latter may find insurance prohibitive.

Whatever the engine, though, the Clio remains fun to drive with good grip and a typically French smooth ride.

Used appeal	
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★

MiTo (2009-present)

ALL superminis look the same, right? Alfa Romeo's MiTo says you're wrong. The legendary Italian sporty marque has created a practical hatchback that is cheap to run yet looks like a baby coupé and drives like one, whether it has a tiny turbocharged petrol engine, normally-aspirated petrol unit or a diesel. It's also good value, especially when Alfa's clever DNA comes as standard, offering three different settings for the car's

throttle and handling, depending on driver mood and weather conditions, marking a real return to form for Alfa.

Used appeal	
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★

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XC60 (2008-present)

THIS is a good-looking under-rated SUV that combines good on-road driving enjoyment in its class while also retaining decent off-road performance in its 4x4 guise – though more eco-friendly front-wheel-drive versions are available.

It is an excellent family car due to roominess within sensible proportions, plus its ability to gobble up miles effortlessly.

It also wears a premium badge that stands for quality, attention to detail and impeccable

safety standards. It might not be cheap, even when second-hand, but you should get more of your cash back when you sell.

Used appeal

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★



Octavia (1998-present)

IT was the car that announced how Skoda had turned its back on the old Communist-era jokes and aimed, under VW's guidance, to become a serious car-manufacturer.

Since then, three generations of Octavia have proved to be great value, thoroughly modern for their time and dependable, with a choice of good engines, hatchback or handy estates, and even all-wheel-drive versions including the rugged, high-riding Scout model.

As a brand, Skoda and its dealers usually head customer satisfaction polls... nobody makes those jokes any more.

Used appeal

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★

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DS3 (2010-present)

PRESSURE was applied to those established retro stars, the BMW MINI and Fiat 500, when Citroën launched the sporty DS3. By reviving the prestigious DS branding of the 1950s and 1960s, the French marque said: "We have stylish heritage to call upon, too."

Citroën also ensured its three-door supermini could match the Mini and 500 for customisation, with a catalogue of alloys, accessories and decals to complement

individual looks, plus a centre pillar that made the roof appear to float, especially when enhanced by a different colour.

Used appeal	
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★

500 (2008-present)

IF you are looking to combine image, retro chic and low running costs, then the Fiat 500 is in a class of its own. It may be small, but the Italian star – a thoroughly modern re-creation of the classic Fiat 500 series begun by the 1957 Nuova – packs bags of personality. It can also be bought in a wide number of variants, from the little turbocharged petrol TwinAir right up to the snorting hot-hatch

Abarth. There is also a cheeky convertible, the 500C, with a roll-top roof.

Used appeal	
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★

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Kent & Medway NHS Trust
Kent Community Health NHS Trust
Medway Community Healthcare CIC
Medway NHS Foundation Trust



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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/12/1428/S - 4 & 5 LIME TERRACE, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 0AP - Retrospective application for Listed Building Consent for creation of an internal access doorway between Nos 4 & 5 and the subsequent infilling and making good of the same. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/2177/N - CHURCH BARN, CHURCH LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EE - Demolition of existing conservatory and replace with new orangery, replacement of kitchen door with a window, replacement of a rear first floor window with a Juliette balcony and creation of a walled courtyard. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/2187/S - LAND ADJACENT CLOUDBANK AND HILLCREST, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, KENT - Demolition of the attached garage to Hillcrest and erection of a detached two storey, 2 bedroom cottage with access and parking. **Reason: 9**

MA/14/0193/N - STONE STREET CLUB, 2, LOWER STONE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6JN - An application for listed building consent for the demolition of a listed wall. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0294/S - HERTSFIELD NORTH BRIDGE 35B AND 35A, CHART HILL ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT - Listed Building Consent for repairs to north flood arch, comprising removal of fill down to arch and replacement of fill with pre-cast and in-fill concrete, faced with rag stone/brick to match existing; and localised repairs to rag stone and brickwork of both the north arch and north flood arch. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0352/N - AUTUMN COTTAGE, MUSKET LANE, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1UY - Installation of solar panels on garage roof. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/14/0357/S - JUSTCROFT HOUSE, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AH - An amended scheme to that approved under reference MA/13/1961 (Alterations to building (in association with a change of use to residential use)) including a raised path with fence to the north and east elevations; a reduced size window in the east elevation; and insertion of 2no. small bathroom windows in the south elevation. **Reason: 2**

MA/14/0362/S - THE TATT, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HT - Erection of a pre-built cabin in the garden. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/14/0484/N - SHERRINGHAM HALL, BUNCE COURT ROAD, OTTERDEN, FAVERSHAM, KENT, ME13 0BY - Erection of a car port. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0502/S - FORMER BP FILLING STATION, 531, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9LN - Erection of single storey retail unit with parking, loading bay facilities and associated works. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0510/S - TROON HOUSE, SUTTON ROAD, LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3LZ - Erection of single storey annexe to accommodate staff (resubmission of MA/13/2125). **Reason: 1, 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.



Copies of applications listed can be viewed on our website www.maidstone.gov.uk or at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **27th April 2014**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 13th April 2014

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Notice of application for renewal of a Sex Establishment Licence pursuant to Schedule 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

TAKE NOTICE that on 10th April 2014 James Pemble applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the renewal of a sex establishment licence in respect of Players Gentlemen's Club, 57, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1SY

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Mondays to Sundays inclusive from 19.00 to 02.00 hours and on New Year's Eve - 19.00- 03.00

ACTIVITY: sexual entertainment venue

The application may be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Department, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ

ANY PERSON wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Senior Licensing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or by e-mail at licensing@maidstone.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 9th May 2014

Name: James Pemble

Organisation: Players,

Address: 57, High Street, MAIDSTONE KENT ME14 1SY

Dated 11th April 2014

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PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AW376, KINGSNORTH
PUBLIC PATH CREATION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2014

On 26th March 2014 The Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to add a new length of Public Bridleway numbered AW376, which commences from a point on Pound Lane at grid reference TQ 9991 3957 (Point A), heading in a north westerly direction for 293 metres, to re-join Pound Lane at grid reference TQ 9969 3973 (Point B), opposite the established cycle track exiting Lucilla Avenue. The new length of Public Bridleway crosses the existing line of Public Footpath AW298 at grid reference TQ 9969 3971 (Point C) 273 metres from TQ 9991 3957 (Point A), which in effect is upgraded to Public Bridleway status by this Order.

The new length of Public Bridleway numbered AW376 is to be 3 metres wide.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the order and map may be purchased there at a price of £5.

The Order comes into force on 23rd April 2014, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 13th April 2014, make an application to the High Court.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AW222 (PART), AW298 (PART)
KINGSNORTH)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND
STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2014

On 26th March 2014 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of (a) that length of public footpath numbered AW222 that commences from the unaffected part of public footpath AW222 at grid reference NGR TQ9926 3988 (Point A), and passes for 200 metres in a South Easterly direction to grid reference NGR TQ9940 3975 (Point K), then turning and continuing in a South South Easterly direction for 28 metres to a connection with Restricted Byway AW299A at grid reference NGR TQ9942 3972 (Point C) as shown on the Order plan;

and (b) that length of public footpath numbered AW298 that commences from its junction with Restricted Byway AW299A at grid reference NGR TQ9942 3972 (Point C), and passes for 265 metres in an Easterly direction to a connection with the unaffected part of public footpath AW298 at grid reference NGR TQ9968 3971 (Point B) as shown on the Order plan.

A new length of public footpath will be added (a) numbered AW222 that commences from the unaffected part of public footpath AW222, at grid reference NGR TQ9926 3988 (Point A), and passes in a North Easterly direction for 18 metres to grid reference NGR TQ9927 3990 (Point I) then turning in a East South Easterly direction for 172 metres to grid reference NGR TQ9943 3985 (Point G), before continuing in a South Easterly direction for 6 metres and turning again in an East South Easterly direction and crossing over a bridge at grid

reference NGR TQ9944 3984 (Point F) on which the width is reduced to approximately 740mm, then continuing in a North Easterly direction for 6 metres to grid reference NGR TQ9945 3985 (Point H), then finally turning in an East South Easterly direction for 10 metres before making a connection with Restricted Byway AW299A, at grid reference NGR TQ9946 3984 (Point D) as shown on the Order plan. The new length of path will have a width of 2 metres other than to cross a bridge where it is reduced to 740mm;

and a new length of public footpath (b) numbered AW298 that commences at a new connection with Restricted Byway AW299A, at grid reference NGR TQ9946 3984 (Point E), and passes in an East South Easterly direction for 180 metres to grid reference NGR TQ9963 3979 (Point J), and continues for 92 metres in a South Easterly direction to rejoin the unaffected part of public footpath AW298 at grid reference NGR TQ9968 3971 (Point B) as shown on the Order plan. The new length of path will have a width of 2 metres.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the order and map may be purchased there at a price of £5.

The Order comes into force on 23rd April 2014, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 13th April 2014, make an application to the High Court.

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY
CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER38

IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER38)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 13th September 2013, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath ER38 has been extended for a further 6 months, until the 7th October 2014.

The path is closed from its junction with the National Trust Visitor car park and its junction with Public Footpath ER269, a distance of approximately 315 metres.

There are several alternative routes which will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Denise Roffey
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY
CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KMX14

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KMX14
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath KMX14, between Station Road and Buckland Hill (Maidstone East and Maidstone Barracks stations) from the 7 April 2014.

The path will be initially closed for a period of two weeks to enable resurfacing and improvement work to be completed. There may be further short periods of closure associated with improvement work to the High Level Bridge up until 1 October 2014, although these will be kept to a minimum to avoid disruption to the public.

The alternative route is via Station Road, St Faiths Street, Fairmeadow and St Peters Street.

For detailed enquiries please contact Graham Rusling
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY
CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HL5, HL2/HR4

IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HL5, HL2/HR4
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1),
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 15th April 2013 and subsequently extended for 6 months until 14th April 2014, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpaths HL5, HL2/HR4 has been extended for a further 6 months, until the 14th October 2014.

The path is closed between its junction with Harden Road and its junction with Footpath HL7 at NGR TR072, 206 and Public Footpaths HL2/HR4 between Romney Road and Church Road, a distance of approximately 2700 metres.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Edward Denne
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/closures-restrictions-and-permits>

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTIONS 26 & 118; &
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector will be appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine

Kent County Council
 (Public Footpath ZF42, Faversham) Public Path Creation and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2012

and will attend at:
 The Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8NZ (1st Day); & The Faversham Assembly Rooms, Preston Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8PG (2nd & 3rd Days)*

From Tuesday 20 May 2014 at 10.00am
 To hold a public local inquiry into the Orders

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

The effect of the Orders, if confirmed without modifications will be to:-

(Public Footpath ZF42, Faversham) Public Path Creation and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2012

Create a new length of public footpath numbered ZF42 which commences at its connection with public footpath ZF5 at NGR TR 01721 61887 (Point A on the map attached to the Order) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 42 metres to NGR TR 01743 61922 (Point B on the map attached to the Order). The path then turns and runs alongside the boundary wall of Faversham Reach in a north westerly direction for 29 metres to NGR TR 01724 61942 (Point C on the map attached to the Order) and thence runs in a north north easterly direction – continuing to run alongside the boundary wall of Faversham Reach – for 92 metres to its connection with public footpath ZF5 at NGR TR 01769 62024 (Point D on the map attached to the Order).

The new length of public footpath numbered ZF42 has a width of 1.2 metres for a distance of 42 metres between Point A and Point B, the path then narrows to 1 metre as it passes between the boundary wall of Faversham Reach and an inlet for Faversham Creek between Point B and Point C. The path then widens to 1.5 metres for a distance of 62 metres, narrowing to 1.3 metres for a distance of 30 metres – as it passes between the boundary wall of Faversham Reach and neighbouring garages to Point D.

&

(Public Footpath ZF5 (Part) Faversham) Public Path Extinguishment Order and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2012

Extinguish the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered ZF5 which commences at NGR TR 01721 61885 (Point A on the map attached to the Order) and runs in a north easterly direction for 128 metres to NGR TR 01805 61978 (Point B on the map attached to the Order) and thence in a north westerly direction for 57.5 metres to its connection with the unaffected section of Public Footpath ZF5 at NGR TR 01769 62024 (Point C on the map attached to the Order).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to these Orders may do so by appointment at Kent County Council, Public Rights of Way and Access Service, Public Rights of Way, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX during normal office hours. Please telephone 01622 221568 to make an appointment.

Planning Inspectorate References: FPS/W2275/6/4 & 3/12

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate: Clive Richards, Rights of Way Section, Room 3/25, Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square,

Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. Tel: 0303 4445502

Email: clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk

*Note: The venue will revert to the Alexander Centre if the Inquiry overruns the estimated 3 days required

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
 Kent County Council
 Invicta House
 County Hall
 Maidstone
 Kent
 ME14 1XX

Dated: 13th April 2014

For further information, please contact
 Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
 on 03000 417171 (local rate) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



To place your notice here,
 call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817056

Kent County Council, acting in exercise of its powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, makes or intends to make, the following Orders.

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

HART HILL, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of telegraph pole replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Hart Hill, Charing. Hart Hill will be closed between the junctions with Stonestile Farm Road and Warren Street.

Closures are planned to commence from 16 April 2014 for up to 2 days, off peak between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Stonestile Farm Road and Warren Street.

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

ALKHAM ROAD, KEARSNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER APRIL 2014

To enable rectification works to be carried out to the CCTV on the railway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Alkham Road, Kearsney.

Alkham Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 14 April 2014 for up to 3 nights, from 21:00 hours through until 06:00 hours each night.

The alternative route is via Alkham Road, Lower Road (Temple Ewell), High Street and London Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

CROMWELL ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cromwell Road, Whitstable.

Cromwell Road will be closed between the junctions with B2205 Oxford Street and Regent Street.

Closures are planned to commence from 14 April 2014 for up to 3 days, between 08:00 hours and 17:00 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Belmont Road, Old Bridge Road, The Bridge Approach, Castle Road, Teynham Road and Railway Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BOTTOM POND ROAD, WORMSHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because it is necessary for tree cutting and cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bottom Pond Road, Wormshill, on or after 15 April 2014 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Manor Farm to Fair-View.

The alternative route is via The Street, Gossy Hill Road and Frinsted Lane.

LIVINGSTONE WALK, WALLIS AVENUE & WALLIS OAK AVENUE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of the demolition of buildings and construction of a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order that the footways will be closed due to the safety of the public on Livingstone Walk, Wallis Avenue & Wallis Oak Avenue, on or after 14 April 2014 for up to 18 months or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route for pedestrians is via Longshaw Road, Wallis Avenue, Wallis Oak Avenue and Bicknor Road.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

AZALEA DRIVE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

Because of a Crane Operation, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Azalea Drive, on or after 27th April 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Azalea Drive and Station Approach.

The alternative route is via Station Approach, Godsel Road and Azalea Drive.

BIRCHIN CROSS ROAD, SHOREHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of allowing BT safe access to boxes for cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Birchin Cross Road, Shoreham, on or after 28th April 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Rowdown Lane to the junction with Clarkes Green Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Row Dow Lane, Magpie Bottom, Birchin Cross Road.

CASTLE ROAD, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of trial holes to find and locate known and unknown services, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Castle Road, Eynsford, Sevenoaks, on or after 28th April 2014 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed over Kent County Council bridge no 56 Shoreham Castle East (carries Castle Road over River Darent) at the junction with Castle Road and Castle Farm Road. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Castle Road, A255 Shoreham Road, Station Road, Church Road, High Street, Castle Farm Road. This route is not suitable for HGVs but a separate route will be signed once the works are in progress.

EYNSFORD ROAD, CROCKENHILL, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of laying a new water service to the new development, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Eynsford Road, Crockenhill, Sevenoaks, on or after 14th April 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the Former Fruiters Arms Public House and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Broadway, Green Court Road, Goldsel Road, High Street, London Road, Wested Lane and vice versa.

KNATTS LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of allowing BT safe access to boxes for cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Knatts Lane, West Kingsdown, on or after 17th April 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Knatts Valley Road to the junction with Tinker Pot Lane and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Tinker Pot Lane, Knatts Valley Road.

RYE LANE AND STATION ROAD DUNTON GREEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of replacement Gas Mains, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rye Lane and Station Road Dunton Green, on or after 14 April 2014 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Rye Lane, east of the rail Bridge to Station Road, junction of Crescent Cottages. There will be no access for through traffic between these locations.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A224 London Road, Pilgrims Way West, Rye Lane, Rye Lane Dunton Green.

Alternative diversion route would be via Station Road, A224 London Road A25 Maidstone Road, A25, Bradbourne Vale Road, Otford Road A225, Sevenoaks Road, High Street, Rye Lane.

SPODE LANE, COWDEN, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of BT works to replace a telegraph pole to restore service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Spode Lane, Cowden, Sevenoaks, on or after 15th April 2014 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the Limes along Spode Lane, Cowden via North Street and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Butterwell Hill, Hartfield Road, B2026 Spode Lane and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

NORTHWOOD ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of carriageway pothole repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Northwood Road, Broadstairs. Northwood Road will be closed between the junctions with Westwood Road and Millennium Way.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from 14 April 2014 for up to 4 nights, between 18:30 hours and 00:30 hours each night. The alternative routes are

Southbound via Westwood Road, Rumfields Road, Pyson's Road, A254 Margate Road and Northwood Road
Northbound via Northwood Road, A254 Margate Road and Westwood Road

Access to Sycamore Close will be maintained from one or other direction, as signposted on site.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

VARIOUS ROADS IN LEYBOURNE, EAST MALLING/ LARKFIELD AND WEST MALLING PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN, ONE WAY DRIVING AND BUS LANE AMENDMENT NO1 ORDER 2014

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1,2,4 and 122A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

- Remove the bus lane at West Malling Railway Station access road, West Malling

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ and at www.consultations.kent.gov.uk

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or object to it, should write to Tara O'Shea, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 5 May 2014.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

OLD CHURCH ROAD, PEMBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because it is necessary to install ducts and electric cables, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Old Church Road, Pembury, on or after 14 April 2014 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Redwings Lane to The Pumping Station.

The alternative route is via Old Church Road, Pembury Hall Road, Dislingbury Road/Half Moon Lane, Amhurst Bank Road and Redwings Lane.

SWATLANDS LEVEL CROSSING, LUCKS LANE, PADDOCK WOOD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

Because of maintenance to the railway tracks, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Swatlands Level Crossing, Lucks Lane, Paddock Wood, on or after 20 April 2014 for up to 1 night between 01.00hrs and 04.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via B2160 Maidstone Road, Wagon Lane, Queen Street, Lucks Lane.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 13th April 2014

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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Aiming to make a mark with

Former Hampshire seamer David Griffiths talks to **Greg Miles** about switching counties, having the

DAVID Griffiths comes to Kent up for the challenge of making a starting spot in the side his own.

The seamer has endured a tough time in, and out of, the Hampshire side over the course of his career, with a plethora of international talent regularly rocking up for summers at The Rose Bowl.

It has turned Griffiths into a tough and determined character now that he has parted ways with the county where he started his career.

He will again be up against some stiff opposition as part of a renewed bowling attack at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, for the 2014 season.

While others have been enjoying time off, or keeping themselves sharp with cricket overseas, the 28-year-old has been coming up to Canterbury from his Southampton home in the weeks before pre-season to get himself in shape.

And while he gets himself a more permanent home sorted out in the county, he is going to have to rely on the generosity of his team-mates for somewhere to lay his head at night.

"I'm loving it down here," he said. "I've got a house in Southampton that I will keep, but I'm looking to buy an apartment up here."

"I will be sleeping on people's sofas in the meantime."

"I have been down here for two or three days a week for the last couple of months."

Griffiths, who was born on the Isle of Wight, was at Hampshire from the age of 13 and turned professional at 18.

While obviously pleased to be playing for his home county, it meant that he was up against some tough opposition when it came to a spot in the starting XI, with Dimi Mascarenhas, Dominic Cork, Shane Bond, Abdul Razzaq, Shahid Afridi, Imran Tahir, Sean Ervine, Rangana Herath and

Shane Warne all members of the bowling department at one time or another.

"I felt like I deserved and wanted to be playing more cricket, so we put the feelers out to different clubs and Kent came in and showed interest early on," said Griffiths.

“ I felt like I deserved to be playing more cricket, so we put the feelers out to different clubs and Kent came in and showed interest early on ”

David Griffiths,
On joining the county

"The last couple of years I haven't been injured that much, but when I was younger I had serious injuries with different things."

"The last two years I have been travelling with the first team and playing the 12th man. I would rather be playing in the second team than travelling around the country and not playing."

"I wanted to play more cricket and it got a little bit annoying, really. As soon as Kent were keen, I wanted to get the move."

"I had an opportunity to move on a bit sooner but was offered a two-year contract a few years ago."

While his time may have been frustrating at points, he does come to Kent as a cup-winner, having been a part of the side that won the CB40 in 2012.

He took 12 wickets in the competition, including that of Ian Bell in the final as his side beat Warwickshire.

It proved an important one as Bell was edging the Bears closer to victory before he was dismissed on 81 with Warwickshire just 27 runs short of victory.

"I've had a lot of very good times at Hampshire. It's a great club, but I want to be playing more," he said.

When he did get his breaks in the team it was a moment to savour, knowing his hard work had paid off.

"When I first joined, Warney was in the team and we had loads of internationals in the side," he said. "We had a ridiculous squad."

"When you got into the team you knew you deserved it. You were playing with eight international players and above the pecking order of others. You felt like you had earned it."

"You have to take every opportunity you get, whether it's bowling at Jimmy Adams or another captain in the nets, or performing in matches. You have to think every opportunity



Pictures: ADY KERRY

PLAYER: Kent new boy David Griffiths is keen to play regular first-team cricket this season

his new county

best job in the world and earning his place in the first team

“ You have to put in the extra yards. I believe I have the best job in the world, which helps going to work every day. I’m very lucky. ”

David Griffiths,
On making an impact at Kent

is your last game. You have to put in the extra yards.
“I believe I have the best job in the world, which helps going to work every day. I’m very lucky.”
He will be a part of a strengthened bowling attack this season at Kent, who have at their disposal Mark Dav-

ies, Mitchell Claydon, Doug Bollinger, James Tredwell, Adam Riley, Darren Stevens and Callum Haggett.
“This is what pre-season is all about,” he said. “Everyone is going to hit the straps hard.”
“You have got to be on it from the get-go. It is a good pressure that we have got a good squad and it pushes you forward.”
One face who may be a little more familiar to Griffiths is ex-Durham man Ben Harmison.
The two played together on a tour of India with England under-19s nine years ago in a side that also featured former Kent player Joe Denly, who is now with Essex.
“We didn’t do that well,” said Griffiths. “We played against a lot of the players that are playing for India now.”
“I think we won two or three games from an eight-match series.”
Griffiths always seemed destined to

take a sporting route with encouragement from his family.
His uncle, Jonathan Griffiths, played for rugby league side St Helens and for Wales before switching codes to rugby union. He also played for Great Britain at the Rugby League World Cup in 1995.
His father, Adrian Griffiths, played for the Wales Minor Counties team from 1990 until 1996.
“My family are very sporting. My uncle played rugby for Wales and my dad captained Wales at cricket,” he said. “There was always a lot of cricket and different sports in the family.”
“My stepdad also played cricket for the Isle of Wight. I did play a bit of rugby league when I was younger, but I chose cricket instead.”
He still goes to see St Helens whenever he can but has stopped playing rugby and football in warm-ups before cricket: “I picked up a few injuries, so I just do my own stuff now.”

KMI

Brown agrees fresh two-year contract at Ebbsfleet United

EBBSFLEET United have agreed a new two-year contract with manager Steve Brown. They have also signed assistant manager Steve Gritt and first-team coach David Jupp for the same period.
Dr Abdulla Al Humaidi, chairman of the Skrill (Conference) South outfit, told the club website: “When KEH acquired the club last June and appointed Steve Brown as first-team manager he had very little time to assemble a squad of players for the 2013/14 season.
“I have been very impressed with Steve and the progress the team has made this season and we are well placed to qualify for the end-of-season play-off competition, but we are taking nothing for granted.
“This season has been Steve’s first as a manager and I am sure that the experience he has gained will be put to very good use.”



DEAL: Boss Steve Brown



RUNS: Daniel Bell-Drummond

Unbeaten ton eases Kent to friendly draw

DANIEL Bell-Drummond scored an unbeaten century as Kent and Loughborough MCCU’s game at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, ended in a lame draw on Thursday.
The rain-affected three-day match saw the students dismissed for 271, Mitchell Claydon being the pick of the Kent bowlers with 4-50.
Robbie Joseph, David Griffiths and Adam Ball took two wickets apiece.
In reply, the home side got off to a dreadful start with captain Rob Key being bowled by Gavin Baker for 0.
However, Bell-Drummond’s 103 not out (retired), Brendan Nash’s 87 and Ben Harmison’s 51 not out allowed Kent to declare on 339-5 and bring the game to an early close.

Edwards makes history as Wisden makes its choice

KENT’S Charlotte Edwards has been named one of Wisden’s five Cricketers of the Year.
The 34-year-old England captain becomes just the second woman in history to receive the accolade.
In her glittering 18-year international career she has won five Ashes series, the World Cup and the World Twenty20.
The other four to be named by Wisden are England batsman Joe Root, Australian fast bowler Ryan Harris and opener Chris Rogers and Indian batsman Shikhar Dhawan.



CLASS ACT: Charlotte Edwards

Paceman Joseph back at St Lawrence

ROBBIE Joseph, the Antigua-born fast bowler, has rejoined Kent.
He first played for the county in 2005 and took 144 first-class wickets at an average of 31.25 before being released at the end of the 2011 season.
Joseph, 32, spent 2012 with Leicestershire but did not play county cricket at all last season.

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